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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.

PARTIES IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

In the Parliament called together in 1852, under the auspices of the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli, there were at first but two distinct and clearly-definable parties—those of Free-Trade and Protection. But, as time wore on, Protection gave up the ghost, and was buried, with none to weep for it. The war against Russia shortly afterwards burst out, and parties assumed new shapes and modifications. From the original two they split into no less than five, more or less clearly marked. There was, in the first place, the great Liberal party, which, though without a recognised leader, formed the majority. Secondly, there was the Conservative party, yielding a sulky allegiance to Mr. Disraeli. Thirdly, there was the small but most respectable party of the old Whigs, with Lord John Russell at its head. Fourthly, there was the party commonly called Peelites—an offshoot from Conservatism, and belonging naturally, and of right, to that body, which allowed Mr. Gladstone to be its spokesman. Fifthly, there was the Manchester party—strong in the courage of John Bright, and the eloquence of Richard Cobden. The Parliament thus constituted had but one task before it; but it was a task that required all its patriotism, courage, foresight, and

public spirit. Two of the five parties into which it was divided set themselves systematically against the prosecution of the war; though it taxed all the energies of the nation, engaged all its sympathies, awakened all the hopes of the strong that England would be victorious; all the fears of the timid that she would be defeated in the struggle, and made itself be felt in every homestead as the one great question of our time. But the "Peelites" and the "Manchester Peace Party" neither understood the war nor their countrymen. They originally gained their position by doing work when work was to be done; for it was they who repealed the Corn-laws. In the same way they lost their position, by refusing to work, when work—strong, sturdy, and hearty—against Russia was the one thing needful. Their countrymen no sooner had an opportunity of testifying at the hustings their opinion of the conceit, impracticability, and political cowardice of the "Peelites" and "Manchester Peacemen" than the whole party were, with a few individual exceptions, consigned to private life—some for a while only; some, it is to be presumed and hoped, for the term of their natural existence. For pronouncing this judgment the public has been accused of ingratitude and of ostracism; and Mr. Bright, and even Mr. Cobden, has been compared to an Aristides—

too good and too just to be loved or even tolerated by his countrymen. But, unless one service, in which thousands of people took part, is to outweigh all possible disservice in a public man; unless a member of Parliament, because he has once done right, is to be allowed to go wrong without let or hindrance for ever afterwards, we do not see how the public can be accused either of ingratitude or of injustice in refusing Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright a place in the new Parliament. In their youthful days they did right, and the public rewarded them. In their maturer days, when they should have known better, they did wrong, and the public refused to reward them any further. Where in this case is the injustice or the ingratitude?

The Parliament of 1857, relieved of those whose want of a national policy and a sound judgment rendered necessary the dissolution of the Parliament of 1852, may be divided into the three normal parties of Liberals, Conservatives, and Whigs. At the head of the first, with a large majority at his back, is Lord Palmerston; Mr. Disraeli, with a strong and compact minority, leads the second party; and Lord John Russell, with a still smaller minority, which may possibly grow into a majority, leads the third. The other statesmen and orators who aspire to sway the councils of the nation, and who do not clearly belong to either of these



THE SULTAN LEAVING HIS NEW PALACE AT DOLMABAGHSHE, TO VISIT ADMIRAL LORD LYONS ON BOARD THE "ROYAL ALBERT," ON THE DAY PREVIOUS TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE FLEET FROM THE BOSPHORUS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



NEWSPAPER
PENNY

three great and time-honoured divisions, will speedily have to decide whether they will join the Whigs or the Conservatives; for good Liberals they are not likely to become. Mr. Gladstone will, perhaps, make common cause with Mr. Disraeli—Sir James Graham, if we may judge from his speeches at Carlisle, will unite his fortunes with those of Lord John Russell.

Domestic reforms always follow great and long-protracted wars, and that may be one reason why Lord Aberdeen and the statesmen who shared his timidity in 1853 and 1854 were so anxious to bring the war to a premature and unnatural conclusion. Already the hostilities in Canton, which were the immediate moving causes of the dissolution of the last Parliament, have ceased to be the question of the day; and the word Reform, the mere mention of which, three years ago, used to be scouted as inopportune by men of all parties, and turned into ridicule by powerful daily newspapers, is on the lips of all the great Parliamentary leaders. Lord Palmerston is to be a Reformer, though he has said but little on the subject. Lord John Russell is to be a Reformer, both from policy and from conviction; and Mr. Disraeli is to be a Reformer, specially charged with the conservation of Tory influence, and with the destruction of all rotten boroughs belonging to Whig patrons. But, although Lord Palmerston has the majority—although his manly foreign policy has made him the favourite of the nation—although his energy during the late war saved the country from disgrace, and entitled him to the gratitude of his contemporaries, as it will secure for him the approbation of history—it is not he but Lord John Russell who has become the master of the situation. The War was Lord Palmerston's question. Reform in Parliament is the question of Lord John Russell. The extent to which reform is to be carried depends far more upon the noble Lord the member for London than upon the noble Lord the member for Tiverton. If it depended altogether upon Lord Palmerston, we may be assured that very little would be made to suffice. The antagonism which at present exists between these distinguished persons is the best security of the public that the new Reform Bill will be so framed and elaborated as to fit the necessities of the year 1857 as completely as the first Reform Act fitted those of 1832. The public can but gain by their rivalry. Lord Palmerston's reputation is made; and, were he to cease to be Minister to-morrow, he would occupy a large and a bright page in his country's annals. Lord John Russell has yet to make a reputation as splendid. He had an opportunity and he lost it. He was in power for six years, and he damaged both his party and his name by the inglorious use he made of splendid opportunities, by narrow-minded nepotism in his appointments, and by a general inefficiency and weakness in every department of his Government. Fortune and his own skill in playing the game of politics have once more given him a chance; and if Lord Palmerston is to retain, or Lord John Russell to regain, power by the favour of the people, it is on the Reform question that the favour is to be won, and that the battle is to be fought. The stagnation of domestic politics has lasted too long. It is good for the political health of a free country that there should be a clear, broad, question of home affairs, and of popular rights, for the people and Parliament to discuss. Such a question is that of Reform; and the statesman who proposes the best measure, whether it be Lord Palmerston or Lord John Russell, will render the best service to the nation. It is not unlikely that Lord Palmerston will be the man; but, if he be, the result, we cannot help thinking, will be mainly due to the position assumed by Lord John Russell. And what of Mr. Disraeli? Nothing, literally nothing. He has but to look on with his party, and abide the issue.

VISIT OF THE SULTAN TO THE "ROYAL ALBERT."
We have been favoured by an eye-witness with the accompanying sketch of the visit of the Sultan to the *Royal Albert* while in the Bosphorus, on the 28th ult. The Sultan was received at the entry port on the middle deck by the Admiral (Lord Lyons), Ambassador, Pachas, and Captains of the fleet. He was conducted to the upper deck by the Ambassador, who was obliged to help him up the ladders. He wore the fez, with a button on the top, a loose overcoat, the collar and cuffs of which were a mass of diamonds worth about £50,000. He threw open his coat so as to show the Ribbon and Star of the Garter, telling the Admiral that he felt proud to be able to wear it before so many brave soldiers and sailors. A chair was brought out for him, which he refused, saying in French, which he speaks fairly, "*Je ne suis pas fatigué.*" After the usual complimentary speeches had been exchanged the Admiral conducted him to the cabin, and, after a short rest, he again came on deck this time the Sultan had evidently got over his nervousness, and laughed and chatted a good deal, apparently taking considerable interest in all he saw. On returning to the Admiral's cabin he requested the Admiral, Ambassador, and Pachas to be seated—a thing that, I believe, has never before taken place. The Sultan then begged Lord Lyons to inform her Majesty the Queen how grateful he felt for the prompt assistance that had been rendered to his country, and for having sent such a man as the Admiral to be one of the defenders of Turkey. He afterwards paid the Admiral a very handsome compliment. His Majesty said: "I loved you when I first saw you, and that affection and regard has since been increased by the nobleness of your conduct; and I feel that it is no small thing to come on board such a ship to see such a man; and I trust that, if again England become the defender of Turkey, your Sovereign may choose you, if your services can be spared, to again command the fleet. And I hope that you may long live to adorn the profession of which you are such a bright ornament."

THE FRENCH GUNPOWDER PLOT.—A person, whose name it is not necessary to mention, a silk-weaver by trade, and a fanatic in politics, conceived the notion of blowing up the Emperor while he was sitting in his box at the Théâtre Français. The modern Catesby proceeded to London to communicate his plan to persons from whom he expected to receive encouragement and assistance. After a conference with them he returned to France, and soon after again repaired to London to arrange the final operations. In the mean time one of his London friends, believing he had reason to suspect that the French Catesby was in reality a secret agent of the French authorities sent to entrap him, gave information to the English police. When "Catesby" heard of the fact he became furious, and, anticipating the denunciation, returned hastily to Paris, revealed the plot to the French authorities, and denounced his accomplices. He, with about thirty persons, was at once taken into custody. The affair is now in course of investigation, and will, in due time, be brought before the Correctional Police Court, when, no doubt, the concoctor of the plan will be produced as the principal witness. It seems that a plan of the part of the theatre where the Emperor is wont to sit, as of the external parts contiguous, was made. Barrels of powder were to be deposited immediately under the box, a train laid on, which was to be carried outside, and the mine was to be sprung while the attention of the Emperor and the audience was absorbed by the scenic representations. The accomplice of the chief conspirator declared that he was nothing more than a police spy, but the police authorities disclaim him altogether.—*Letter from Paris.*

IMPROVEMENTS IN MADRID.—The *Madrid Gazette* of the 14th contains a Royal decree which authorises the Minister of Public Works to come to an understanding with the municipality, the provincial deputation, and the ministries, for the aggrandisement and embellishment of the capital, by inclosing within the walls a large tract of ground, and laying it out in streets, parks, promenades, and by cutting wide streets in the city, improving the river, building railway stations, &c.

OVER THE WATER.

There are hundreds of curious facts, many points of historic and literary interest, lively anecdotes and social gossip, and byway stories illustrative of the times, which English readers would be glad to have within their reach. New books appear in Paris, in Vienna, Berlin, and Turin—and books, too, worth studying—the titles of which never reach London. How many English readers know that M. de Fouchez de Careil has returned to Paris from Hanover with some unpublished MSS. by Liebnitz? Yet surely the fact is important. These MSS. are said to include two Dialogues of Plato, translated and annotated; letters on Descartes; letters to Hobbes, Fradella, and Arnaud; and the author's life and portrait, executed by himself? Do we turn towards Turin. Here we find among new Italian books "Reform in Italy in the Sixteenth Century," in which we have a complete gallery of the Italian martyrs who have fought against the influence of the Pope; M. François Trinchera's "Vocabulary of the Italian Language;" and the Count Alexandre Bianco de Saint Porion's "Political and Military History of Piedmont, from the year 1000 to the Peace of Paris in 1856." Nor should M. L. Vigo's "Popular Songs of Sicily" be left unnoticed. The labour alone which this author has devoted to his work is worthy of notice in these days when scissors too often take the place of serious study, and wafer rest too often upon the writer's lip. M. Vigo has visited the chief towns of Sicily; and he presents to his readers the soft songs of Palermo, Messina, Sambuca, Ribera, Novara, Bronte, Syracuse, &c. The Sicilians should be grateful to him, just as the Parisians should be grateful to Prince Napoleon for the two living specimens of the *Falco utandus* which he has presented to the Paris Museum of Natural History, together with some blue foxes (*Isatis*), which he brought home from his journey in the north. The account of this journey, on which some well-known scientific men are working hard, and which is to be a costly work, is already in course of translation into English. What the Prince can have to tell after so rapid a journey over paths so beaten is not the question. The main point is that a Prince edits. Besides, if there be no Royal road to learning, there may possibly be an Imperial one.

We have some new journals to welcome from over the water. The subscribers to the hundred cannons for Alessandria have carried their enthusiasm to the point of establishing a newspaper in Piedmont called *I Cento Cannoni*. The promoters would possibly have pleased their political friends better by buying powder with the money they have resolved to spread abroad in the shape of paper and print. So many papers, however, are cropping up under the prosperous auspices of the King of Sardinia that we can only give the name of a recent Turin speculation *La Staffetta (The Post)*. Nor does the reign of Napoleon III. appear to be less fruitful of papers—chiefly, it must be confessed, devoted to what has been called a *brouhaha* literature. The *Tam-Tam*, the *Tintamarre*, and the *Petit Tintamarre* are familiar only to the more inveterate café frequenters; nor can people who value the purity of English journalism wish to see a single line of these purveyors of *brouhaha* sentiments reach London. Social scandal, spiced with equivocal *bon-mots*, may be amusing to the Quartier Latin; but, happily, the mixture does not agree with the British constitution.

Good acts should warm an artist's welcome. Let us record an act of generosity on the part of Madame Ristori. She lately sent the sum of £80 to the Florentine Society for the Encouragement of Theatrical Art. This sum is to be distributed thus:—A prize of £40 to the author of the best Italian comedy offered in competition to this society; and a prize of £20, and two of £10, to the three leading scholars of the dramatic school founded at Florence by M. Bertini. These helps to art by artists merit public acknowledgment, and they generally receive it, although we English must appear icy cold to singers or actors who come to us from the south. Imagine the recall of a composer before the curtain thirty times. This signal effort of enthusiasm—this pulmonary triumph—was actually achieved, on the second representation of M. Pera's "Adriana Leocovre" at Rome. The happy maestro made his thirtieth bow in one evening. Nor are pecuniary rewards to composers given with a niggard hand. A short time ago Meyerbeer married his only daughter to a Prussian Colonel, and gave her, as a marriage portion, not £2000 a year, not a landed estate, but simply the copyright of "Robert le Diable" and "L'Africaine." The former, it is asserted, is worth to the composer's representative £280 per night!

The princely residence M. Fould, Minister of State, is erecting in the Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris, is to be enriched with fine marbles and antique busts, which his Excellency bought lately at Geneva. They were sold by the heirs of M. Duval, of that city, where they were regarded as a point of attraction to visitors. The art-gossip of Paris includes criticisms on the frescoes upon which M. Eugène Delacroix has long been engaged, in a chapel of St. Sulpice. M. Debay, too, has been eight years modelling the monument to Monseigneur Affre, Archbishop of Paris, who was killed during the Revolution of 1848. The work, it is said, is far from finished—even in clay—so that our grandchildren only can reasonably hope to see the polished marble.

We note among the news from Venice that Professor Zantedeschi has given to the world a new instrument for taking observations of the sun, which he calls a spectrometer.

The gossip from Nice includes an instance of Russian enthusiasm for the Imperial family. The Empress Dowager went one day to see Villefranche, and to inspect the Russian frigate stationed there. Her Majesty crossed the gulf in a boat to Saint Jean, but about midway a breeze sprang up, the waves made the little vessel dance, and even threw their foam over the Maids of Honour. Her Majesty was protected from the salt water, but, nevertheless, on her arrival determined to return by land. Her sedan-chair was ready to receive her, and so were the Cossacks who usually carry it. But, just as her Majesty was about to set forth on her return, the Russian officers present insisted on having the honour of carrying their Imperial mistress—an ardour to which her Majesty assented, not, probably, without an idea that the sturdy Cossacks would be the safer animals. However, eight Russian officers bore their precious burden in triumph back to Villefranche.

The official journal of the Two Sicilies lately published two decrees, by virtue of which the moral and religious direction of the prisons of Lecce, Bari, and Lucera, as well as that of the Procida hulks, is handed over to the Jesuits! These prisons will be curious places for the penologist to study about this time next year.

While the Art-Treasure Exhibition is approaching completion, the directors of the Crystal Palace are making efforts in Paris, through Mr. Henry Mogford, to tempt French artists to Sydenham. Visitors to the picture-gallery now open in the Palace will at once see the necessity for this step. If a gallery of Continental art is to be arranged, let its directors aspire to get the best specimens of the best artists.... Mr. Mogford must return with some Decamps, some Meissonniers, some Rousseaus, some Delacroix, and Delaroche, and Scheffers, and Stevens, and some

scenes by Knaus. There are the Crimean pictures, too, by Yvon, Horace Vernet, and Gustave Doré; there are some Russian groups by Gerome; there are some fine shore pieces by Jeanron—all in Paris. We hear that Baron Taylor, the President of the French Artists' Benevolent Fund, is giving the weight of his influence to the scheme. Mr. Mogford should let the British public know something of "Cornelius," "Madrazo," &c. Why, too, should not a model of poor Clesinger's "François I.," now in the quadrangle of the Louvre, find its way to England? Mr. Mogford might also find the advantage of a visit to the Garde Meuble:—not to carry off the bronze statue of Louis XVI., modelled in Bourbon days to decorate the Place de la Concorde, but left now with grass growing to the Royal knees; not to put together the tumbled blocks of stone that are the wreck of the pedestal upon which the Duke of Orleans stood, in the Louvre quadrangle, under the July dynasty—but to examine the studios of French sculptors who have been working for the ornamentation of the Place du Carrousel.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND—A COMPROMISE.

The settlement of the Neufchâtel dispute has been attended with more delay and difficulty than at one time appeared probable. The Conference, which holds its meetings at Paris, has sat eight times. It has had before it the proposals of the Government of Prussia and the Government of Switzerland. The representatives of those Powers have taken part in the discussions that have ensued on the various points involved in the quarrel. After very mature consideration, the Conference has, it is understood—for in an affair conducted with closed doors absolute knowledge of what has been said and done cannot publicly be known—submitted a plan of settlement to the representatives of Prussia and Switzerland, and those diplomatists have referred the project to their respective Governments for rejection or approval. Thus the matter has reached a definite stage; but it remains to be seen whether the plan drawn up by the representatives of France, Austria, Russia, and England will be satisfactory to Switzerland and Prussia.

Prussia has reduced her terms so far as the money is concerned; she now accepts, and Dr. Kern engages for Switzerland to pay, 1,000,000 f. by way of indemnity; the King of Prussia retains the title of Prince of Neufchâtel, and Switzerland will give him a guarantee respecting the proper administration of charitable institutions in Neufchâtel. There are other conditions, but those are the most important; the representatives of the four Powers adopted them as the basis of an arrangement on the 1st of April, and the time has since been taken up with the difficulties incidental on putting the protocol or convention in form. It may readily be conceived that a solution which gives an indirect right to the King of Prussia to intervene in the internal affairs of the Canton under the pretext of seeing the guarantee properly executed, and the continuance of the title of Prince of Neufchâtel, will be very badly received in Switzerland. The Swiss will not believe that the King and the Royalist party do not still meditate the separation from the Federation of that Canton, and that they will carry it into execution on the first favourable opportunity. If the Federal Council, which is divided into two nearly equal parties, accepts the arrangement, it will be with the greatest repugnance. But what can Switzerland do alone against Europe? Dr. Kern, who left Paris on Tuesday last, will probably return about the end of the month to sign the convention.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

According to private letters from Bucharest, the Kaimakan and his official advisers are working with might and main in favour of the union. Agents have been sent into the different provincial districts to agitate in favour of those Boyards whose political programme is, "Union of the two Principalities, constitutional government, an hereditary foreign Prince, and abolition of the villanage and soccage," and many employés who are suspected of being anti-unions have been dismissed. The Kaimakan received positive orders from the Porte to remain strictly neutral, but he is a man of feeble character and does what he is bid by the Metropolitan, who receives his instructions from St. Petersburg. Baron de Talleyrand is at great pains to persuade the Wallachians with whom he is brought into contract that the union of the two provinces will be a panacea for all the evils under which they have laboured during the last half-century. It is generally believed abroad that there is no opposition to the "Kaimakan" in Wallachia; but such is not the case. Several of the most respected and influential Boyards feel that their native country is in a most critical position, and one of them, M. Kretzuleski, has presented a memoir to the Commissioners of the European Powers which will hardly fail to produce a very deep impression on them. The gentleman in question, who was Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs and Public Instruction, resigned as soon as the Commissioners reached Bucharest. "The sense of his memoir," says one of the Bucharest writers, "is that he took office at the request of the Kaimakan, but found it impossible to remain, as the Lieutenant of the Porte and Metropolitan squandered the revenue of the convents, and laughed him to scorn when he remonstrated. Many specific charges are made against the Kaimakan, and among the rest are the following:—

1. His Excellency sold to one of his relatives for a mere trifle timber belonging to the convent of — (the name is illegible) that was worth 17,000 ducats. 2. The teachers and students of one of the ecclesiastical establishments complained to the Minister of Public Instruction that they had neither sufficient food nor clothing enough to protect their bodies from the inclemency of the weather.

The Minister reported the case to the Kaimakan, and that high functionary put the matter into the hands of his friend the Metropolitan, who dismissed the teachers and severely punished the students. Almost everybody is of opinion that the peasants ought to be emancipated, and the following is the political programme of the Moderate Liberals:—

1. A Federal union of Moldavia and Wallachia. 2. A customs union. 3. The same organisation in the armies of the two provinces, and the right to unite them in case of urgent need. 4. The same civil and criminal codes.

AMERICA.

By the Royal mail steam-ship *Europa*, which arrived at Liverpool on Monday, we have news from New York to the 8th inst.

It is said that Governor R. J. Walker will start for Kansas on the 11th of May. The plan for the pacification of that territory, which proposes to abolish the Draconian code of the Border Ruffian Legislature, is said to have the concurrence of the President and Cabinet, who "feel confident he will succeed in peacefully adjusting the difficulties that have hitherto distracted that territory." A few weeks will show whether Mr. Buchanan or the Pro-Slavery party is strongest.

A meeting of coloured people was held in Philadelphia "to consider the atrocious decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, and other outrages to which the coloured people are subjected under the Constitution of the United States." Various speeches were made, and a series of resolutions adopted.

Upon the China question the Washington correspondent of the *New York Courier and Enquirer* says:—

The official journal a few days since had an article, breathing an air of authority, stating that it was not the policy of this Government to enter into any alliance with Great Britain in hostile proceedings against China, on the ground that we are at peace with that empire, and have no other interest connected with these troubles than the security and extension of commerce. This is undoubtedly a correct view. England may have ambitious designs in the war upon which she enters with so much alacrity and energy, which designs will naturally lead to acquisitions of territory. With such objects we can have no sympathy, because, however ardently we may desire the annexation of the possessions of other nations lying near to our present territory, the acquisition of foreign colonies is entirely inconsistent with our system of government, as well as opposed to the traditions and maxims of the party which is now responsible for the administration. It may be added that it is the opinion of several naval gentlemen with whom I have conversed, that Commodore Perry will be offered the command of the fleet about to be collected for the special service of the Chinese difficulties.

Another Washington correspondent says:—

Our affairs with China continue to occupy the attention of the Administration. Since it has been known that the British Government has appointed Lord Elgin as Minister Plenipotentiary to China our Government has determined to send one thither; but, owing to the great distance of China, and the time that will necessarily be involved in receiving and transmitting official communications, the Administration is solicitous in selecting a Minister in whom the utmost confidence can be placed, and

who will be governed by a wise discretion, considering the general interests involved, including our increasing commerce in that part of the world.

NICARAGUA—GENERAL WALKER AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

In our last week's publication we gave the news brought by the *Arago* to the effect that nearly one-third of Walker's force had deserted, and that "the Filibuster chief was in a most desperate strait—hopeless beyond redemption." The journals of this country had accordingly taken for granted "the end of this ill-starred expedition," when the *Arago* arrived with the intelligence that Walker had gained a great victory—great, that is, in so small a struggle—having in an engagement defeated his opponents with great slaughter ("they themselves admit," says the account, "to have lost 327 killed and 300 wounded"). It is added that he is well supplied with arms, ammunition, and provisions, and that there were hopes of large reinforcements making their way to his assistance. It is well to add that the news of Walker's victory, to the extent reported by the organs which sympathise with him, has not yet been confirmed by the Republican journals. The amount of exaggeration in most of the Democratic newspapers is apt to mislead an English reader.

THE ART-TREASURES EXHIBITION AT MANCHESTER.

The gigantic edifice designed for the display of the inestimable treasures of art at the approaching grand exposition is now so far advanced as to justify the most sanguine expectations that it will be in readiness for the inaugural ceremony on the 5th of next month. During the last few days a great number of additional workmen have been engaged, and as fast as the various portions of the interior have been completed the directors of the different departments, acting under the general superintendence of Mr. J. C. Deane, have been busily engaged in arranging the display of the numerous contributions which have already arrived, and which consist of paintings, statuary, antique furniture, ancient armour, old porcelain, and bijouterie of every description. This work has so far advanced as to give the beholder some slight notion of what the effect of the whole will be, and certainly to all appearance the Exhibition will prove of the most successful character.

In order to make the undertaking remunerative at the low prices of admission already fixed it is necessary that during the period the Exhibition will remain open no fewer than between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 visits should be paid to it. Many, of course, will go more than once; but, after making a liberal reduction for season tickets and repeated visits, nearly if not quite 2,000,000 persons must enter the Exhibition to ensure its financial success. It is evident that Manchester alone, or even the whole of Lancashire, densely populated though it be, is not able to furnish so large an attendance, and hence the necessity which the Executive Committee feel of drawing a portion of their visitors from a distance. With that view they have entered into communication with most of the railway companies in the kingdom, and various meetings, attended by delegates from those companies, have already been held at Euston-square to make arrangements for the running of special and excursion trains from all parts of the country to the Exhibition. It fortunately happens that the Palace is so situated with respect to railway communication that passengers from London on the one hand, or Carlisle on the other, can be carried straight into the building. There will be no difficulty, therefore, in organising special trains upon all the principal lines of railway in connection with the Exhibition; and the different companies are acute enough to see that it will be for their interest to encourage, by reduced fares and otherwise, as many persons as possible to travel towards Manchester during the ensuing summer and autumn. In order to provide for the accommodation of visitors the Executive Committee have opened at their rooms in Mosley-street an office for the registration of lodgings, where parties having apartments to let and strangers who may require them will be supplied with the necessary information and guidance free of charge.

The hope was for a long time entertained that the Exhibition would be opened by her Majesty in person; but the recent happy event puts that entirely out of the question. Prince Albert, however, has kindly consented to be present on the occasion, which there is some talk of observing as a general holiday. His Royal Highness will be received at the principal entrance to the Exhibition by a guard of honour, and it is not improbable that a considerable military force, under the command of Sir Harry Smith, the General commanding in the Midland district, may add alike to the splendour and the dignity of the spectacle. The Prince will be conducted in the first instance to the reception-room near the entrance of the building, from which, after the lapse of a few minutes, he will emerge in a procession formed of the members of his suite, the Executive Committee, and the principal officials of the Exhibition, and will walk, thus accompanied, up the great hall to the dais in the centre of the Transept. There an address will be presented to his Royal Highness by Mr Fairbairn, the Chairman of the Committee, to which an appropriate answer will doubtless be returned. The Mayor of Manchester, in the name of the corporate authorities of the city, will next read and present an address, to which also a reply may be expected. The procession will then be re-formed, and the Prince will proceed to inspect the Galleries of Ancient and Modern Pictures, the Portrait Gallery, the Gallery of Water-Colours, the Collection of Engravings, and the Court of Oriental Productions—a promenade which will embrace nearly every portion of the building. His Royal Highness will then return to the Transept, and formally declare the Exhibition opened, after which he will retire with the same ceremony as before. During these proceedings the orchestra, consisting of 500 performers, under the direction of M. Halle, will execute a selection of appropriate music; and at intervals the grand organ now in course of erection by Messrs. Kirkland and Jardine, of Manchester, will send its swelling tones in streams of harmony through the building. In the evening the Prince will be present at a concert to be given in the Free-trade Hall, under the auspices of the Executive Committee.

(From the *Manchester Guardian*.)

THE INAUGURATION.

On Saturday last Mr. Thomas Fairbairn and Mr. Heron had the honour of an interview with his Royal Highness Prince Albert, at Buckingham Palace, to submit for approval the final arrangements for the ceremonial to be observed on the opening of the Exhibition on Tuesday, the 5th of May. All the formalities usual on great occasions which are honoured with the presence of Royalty are to be observed; and invitations will be issued to her Majesty's Ministers, the Foreign Ambassadors, the heads of the various societies associated with art, and those who are officially connected with the surrounding districts.

As we are informed that the Prince has expressed his intention of appearing in full uniform, it will be necessary for all officially engaged in the ceremonial to attend in uniform or Court dress. As no doubt visitors generally, who may be entitled by office to wear uniform, will under the circumstances appear in full costume, we may anticipate that the spectacle will be one of unusual splendour.

PEEPS AT ITS PROGRESS.

Since our last notice the arrivals of packages have been unceasing, and during Monday forenoon we saw opened, and carried off to their respective galleries, some pictures, both ancient and modern, that in size and beauty will scarcely be excelled by any that will be found in the Exhibition.

Mr. A. Egg has completed the hanging of Gallery F, containing the most recent works of modern artists. It is possible that at a few points it may be necessary to remove some of the pictures already hung, and to substitute others for them; but that will not affect the merit or the force of the observations we desire to make. The gallery has been cleared of all the stages, &c., used in the hanging; a piece of statuary has been placed in its centre upon trial; and there are a few specimens of the elegant, comfortable-looking, green-upholstered seats and settees which are to be placed for the comfort of visitors. And as so arranged, while yet wanting the finishing touches of the upholsterer, it was impossible on Monday to pass into Gallery F from the Transept without feeling that a better-proportioned, better-lighted, or more chastely-decorated gallery could scarcely be fitted; while the walls are literally radiant with a collection of the gems of modern art, such as assuredly never before was seen under one roof. The other Modern Galleries (E and D) are gradually being "hung," satisfactory progress being made. Mr. E. Bellhouse is fitting the iron rails in the galleries, to prevent visitors pressing upon or touching the pictures.

The decoration of the Oriental Court is now nearly completed; and the work there, like all of Mr. Crace's, is excellently done; while the

general effect, as might be supposed from the object of the court, is richer than in any other part of the Palace. The tone of the walls is a sage green, with an unobtrusive pattern ground. The bold rich ornamental frieze is in various colours of Oriental character, with light inlaid ornaments in maroon; and from it there is dropped a series of slender and very tasteful pendent ornaments, which serve to carry down the colours of the frieze to the fabrics to be displayed upon the walls. The ceiling also is very characteristically painted in Oriental ornaments, forming a series of panels; the ground being of a cream colour, with grey margins introducing angle ornaments in gold.

The long Water-Colour Gallery is finished, and the decoration of the two smaller galleries is proceeding satisfactorily. The walls are in neutral grey, with the Greek fret ornament forming the frieze. Above the skirting the same ornament is repeated; and the cornices are painted in imitation of bronze, relieved with gold. The ceilings are in shades of cream colour, relieved with grey, and marginal lines in maroon. The constructive iron arches and tiles (the roof of the Great Gallery being semicircular) are painted in bronze and gold. The arches forming the terminations of the gallery, and also the intersectional arches, are in neutral shades of buff, relieved with ornaments in a quiet maroon, thus throwing their faces into a series of panels. The Water-Colour Galleries have a peculiarly pleasant and cheerful aspect.

VISIT OF RAILWAY OFFICIALS.

A number of representatives of the principal railway companies intending to meet in Manchester for the completion of their arrangements for special trains, &c., the Executive Committee issued invitations to those gentlemen to visit the Palace, with their wives, daughters, &c. Accordingly more than 100 gentlemen and ladies arrived at the Palace on Wednesday afternoon, about two o'clock, and were conducted through the various departments. At three o'clock the guests sat down in the spacious second-class refreshment-room to an elegant cold collation, supplied by Mr. Donald, the caterer for the Palace and Botanic Gardens. Mr. T. Fairbairn, chairman of the Executive Committee, presided; and all the other members were present, with the exception of the Mayor.

Mr. Thomas Fairbairn announced that it had been arranged that there should be nothing like formal toast-proposing; but, with so many of the representatives of the railways present, he could not avoid expressing a hope that, from what they had already seen, they would be convinced that the Exhibition would well repay many and many a visit; and that, in fact, the collection of Art-Treasures would be such as had never before been seen together since the world began.

Captain Huish, secretary of the London and North-Western Railway Company, in the course of a brief speech, said he was not prepared to state exactly what would be done by the different railway companies in order to second, as far as they could, the noble efforts which had been made by the public spirit of this city; but he thought he could venture to say that, so strongly did they feel that the interests of this great undertaking were bound up with their own, no effort upon their part—no liberality that could be fairly asked from them—would be denied by the railway interest (Hear, hear). It would be their duty and privilege to bring to the Exhibition—which was such as the world had never yet produced, and which, in all human probability, could never again be equalled—it would be their duty, if they possibly could, to bring to it, in fact, the population of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Edward Watkin, M.P. (as representing the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company), said his visit to this Exhibition made him feel proud of the name of Englishman, and of that of a Manchester man; when he saw the way in which this building had grown to its present completion, under the auspices and superintendence of the Executive Committee (Hear). He had never visited the spot since the time when—on a very misty and particularly Manchester day—he and others came there to endeavour to fix on a fitting site for a railway station. Now, when he came again, he saw this magnificent creation crowded with some of the noblest works that ever proceeded from the pencil of artist, placed in a building worthy even of those works. It was acknowledged that "the greatest happiness to the greatest number" was a thing to be sought; and to bring the largest number of persons, at the largest amount in totality, although made up of very small units, should be recognised as the principle to be followed in the management of railways; and he hoped that it would not be forgotten or overlooked in connection with the great Art-Treasures Exhibition (Hear, hear).

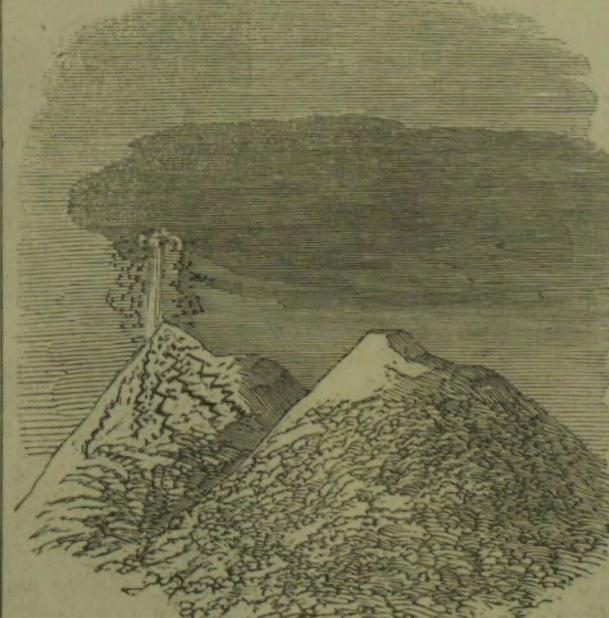
The railway companies have determined to run special trains on the opening day; and, so soon as the shilling days commence, to start special excursion trains at low fares. The endeavour of each of the companies will be (while giving a facility to those who intend making a stay in Manchester) to so arrange their trains that visitors even from so great a distance as London may be taken hither, have several hours for the Exhibition, and reach home again in good time the same night. All the companies will run their principal trains up to the Exhibition station.

ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO AT FUEGO, IN GUATEMALA.

We have been favoured by Dr. Lindley with the following extract from a private letter describing this phenomenon, with a slight sketch:

"GUATEMALA, March 3, 1857.

"On the 17th of February the Volcano de Fuego had a magnificent eruption (it was 9th January last year). Inclosed you have the observations made in the Observatory here by the Rev. Padre Canudas, Professor of Mathematics in the Jesuits' College. We are here 5800 English feet above the level of the sea. The Volcano de Fuego bears N.W. of this city, and as the Padre says, by observations and calculations, is twenty-three miles distant as the crow flies. You will see by the inclosed that the Padre measured the column of fire, which gave an angle of 49 deg., and taking the distance 43,518 metres, resulting



620 metres, or nearly 735 Spanish yards (34 English inches). At half-past seven o'clock in the evening of the 17th the volcano appeared as seen by myself from the roof of a house with an opera-glass, as follows:—At intervals of ten and fifteen minutes a shower of stones or cinders, and we could discern the red-hot stones bounding down the sides. The distance to the base of this volcano, by the direct road, is about forty miles; but, as the crow flies, the Padre's calculation must be nearly, if not quite, correct. The dark marks were streams of lava; and a dense cloud hung on to the north as if chained to the mountain; but the country to the north-west and north is covered with scorium. From the wind being N.N.E., none fell on this side this time. Such an eruption as this is not in the memory

of the oldest inhabitant. Fire has been seen, but so small the column as scarcely distinguishable. In this instance the whole mountain was made perfectly clear, and the night was admirable—intensely dark. The volcano is 14,137 English feet above the level of the sea; and is now, as it presents a continued spiral plume of smoke, a splendid object, particularly as seen from the southern side, where it is a perfect cone; and there lies the great crater, with a river of lava. Mr. Wendland was struck with a line we passed through of perfectly dead vegetation, produced by a river of sulphuric sand thrown out, and washed down for ten leagues along the coast.

I ought to observe that the observatory of the College here is on the roof of the house—a wooden erection some sixty-five or seventy feet high. Our sun is always very powerful, and will raise the temperature in such a building far beyond its genuine influence.

"We have news from California, San Francisco, to 5th Feb. The snow seems to have destroyed many lives in the Nevada there; and even in the city of Mexico they have had a fall of snow. The volcanoes here were covered quite white on the 19th and 20th of Jan., but the snow did not remain above two hours after sunrise. Wendland and I crossed the N.E. step of the Volcano de Fuego on the morning of the 19th, and it was excessively cold. The thermometers used are centigrade."

EN ROUTE FOR CHINA.

SKETCHES FROM OUR OWN ARTIST AND CORRESPONDENT.
(Continued from page 355.)

SUEZ, March 22nd, 1857.

We had a delightful journey up to Alexandria. At one p.m. we saw the distant minarets on a level with the sea, and great was the crowd on the paddlebox to have a view, though the sun was very hot at the time. Our pilot was already on board—he was a real Mussulman, with turban—and we were soon boarded by the Egyptians, most picturesque-looking fellows, full of fun. We went on shore with the doctor and some officers of her Majesty's ship *Tartarus*, who mounted some donkeys and galloped along the dusty streets, shouting out "guards!" nearly upsetting some true believers. We went up towards the canal, through what the officers called "Hyde-park." The trees are palm and bananas, with an underwood of gigantic cactuses. On the wayside, seeing a native café, we squatted down à la Turc, and partook of coffee, served in two cups to prevent your fingers getting burnt. The stylish turnouts we saw would astonish you—such carriages, and always a servant running before to clear the way. Crinoline has turned the heads of the ladies even in Egypt (I mean, of course, the Europeans, as the native still adhere to their blue coverings), they dress grandly, as do also the gentlemen. We then went on board the *Tartarus*, and, having been there hospitably entertained, returned on board our *Valetta*, the best of ships, and slept till morning, notwithstanding the noise the natives made in coaling.

Next morning we went ashore to the station (of which I send you a sketch), a medley of English and natives; outside heaps of donkey-boys are recommending their donkeys in the best English. The scene at the station was very striking with the English, in their veils, turbans, and fantastic head-dresses, and the natives in their picturesque costumes. We got into the train, a most comfortable carriage, with double top to keep out the sun, and had a delightful journey. I never saw such luxuriant vegetation, and such splendid soil. The crops were very high, and fields of clover, sugar-cane, cotton, &c., rendered the scene like a vast vegetable garden. Cows, buffaloes, camels, horses, and sheep thronged the country; whilst the natives were everywhere busy with husbandry. The banks of the canal are covered with villas surrounded by palm-trees. The captain of the *Valetta* told us that when the train first started, the natives would not believe that "the firehorse" could go faster than their horse, but they found out their mistake after galloping for some time. Towards mid-day we crossed the Nile in boats; there was a crowd of Anatolian pilgrims going with the train, and to see their women "bundled" into the boat like lumps of rag, amidst yelling, shouting, was a strange scene. At length, they were all got in, and we crossed over in a steamer. We soon arrived on the opposite shore; and having waited an hour for the train, off we started again, came in sight of the Pyramids, and then into dense vegetation; trees by thousands—olives, figs, palms, peaches, oranges; and in the midst of this green, lay Cairo in the bright sunshine, a cloudless sky overhead, but not deep blue has been said. We got into an omnibus amidst the tremendous yelling of the Arabs, and drove up to Shephard's hotel, which was so full that some inmates had to sleep on tables, and on the divan that always runs round an Egyptian room. Shephard is about to enlarge his hotel, when it will be, perhaps, the largest in the world. I left Cairo at ten at night, and got on board the desert van, of which I send you a sketch. We had a regular fog in the morning at Cairo; but it was followed by a real Egyptian baking day—the most delicious sun and wind—everything dry and dusty, but cold nights. Shephard had a blazing coal fire, in an English grate, at night.

In this country liberty appears to have taken refuge. Here you may do what you like; you may sing after midnight; you can go through the most suspicious-looking, dark, and unlighted street without fear; no gatotors—no robbers—everybody is contented and happy, and desirous of making others so. You can dress in the most outlandish costume, and no one will look at you, nor is any passport required. Everybody speaks English—everybody is polite. Mussulmans are by no means bigots. We went in Mr. Shephard's carriage to see some dancing dervishes. We all sat on the stone divan; I in my semi-Egyptian costume, for it did not take me long to turn a native, with my brilliant Egyptian silk shawl over my shoulders, and red, blue, and yellow stripes, with long tassels, a red fez, and scarlet sash round my waist. Thus equipped, I mounted my donkey, followed by the jovial and prattling little Nubian driver, with his grinning face and ivory teeth. We found the dervishes sitting in a courtyard under an awning—we sat like tailors—on a stone divan covered with mats, and natives handed us coffee. Having smoked a chibouk, we went into the mosque; all the dervishes were seated in a circle, on rugs and skins, singing "Allah!" "Allah!" in a monotonous kind of chant, and moving their heads backwards and forwards. Then two dervish boys came in and spun round for thirty minutes. The others had all got up, and were throwing their bodies backwards and forwards in the most frantic manner, their long hair flying about. They made a noise from their stomachs like the panting of a steam-engine, whilst some old fellows were blowing away on pipes and beating tomtoms. Some of them were foaming at the mouth, and fell down from exhaustion, but got up again and went at it as fresh as larks. I left them to the enjoyment of their movements, and drove home again.

We left Cairo by torchlight in an elegant little omnibus, and crossed the Desert; some runners came with us out of town and left us after having, of course, demanded backsheesh. We were all night and the whole of next day, every twenty miles stopping at a station to refresh. The walls were decorated with pictures out of your noble Paper, and Gilbert and Thomas flourished all round the walls; here, in a thoroughly Oriental town, where not a hat was ever seen, some of the sellers have stuck up engravings out of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*. These station-rooms are all the same—a square room white-washed, stone floor, and divan running round the room, a table in the middle, and there you have it. I send you a sketch of the entrance of one. The Desert is strewn with dead camels in every stage of decomposition; but the air is delicious. We had two mules and two horses, and changed at every station. There were always two Nubians, who had to jump down to encourage the animals, to mend the traces, &c.: the fellows run most splendidly; their costume is just the white Nubian cap and blue kind of blouse, with big sleeves, that they slash up behind; that is, they tie the ends of the sleeves in a knot behind just at the neck. We stuck fast in the sand, and the mules would not go on. This happened continually; the yelling, the pushing, the whipping, all to no good, sometimes for half an hour at a time. I have made a rough sketch of this exciting scene. It is very characteristic of Desert travelling, and will always happen even with the



TRAVELLING IN THE DESERT.

best-regulated mules. Such is life. However, we got on very well after this, and at the last station fed again; pale ale is excellent in the Desert. We arrived at Suez at a splendid hotel, with real Egyptian rooms, capital ventilation, a delicious balcony looking over the Red Sea, of which I send you a Sketch, showing the English head-

dresses. Everybody has a turban round his wideawake and a veil over that; it is the most becoming head-dress. Last night we went to a native coffee-shop, with our Turkish lanterns; seated ourselves on the stone divans; ordered narghilles, and pulled away like real Turks. We all had fezzes; and, through the medium of the guide,

conversed with the soldier who had come with our caravan. I never saw anything so picturesque in my life.

The whole of yesterday was spent in pelting the natives from our balcony with oranges. The balcony was just above the Red Sea, which was full of boats. All day long we heard, "A boat, Sir? Want a



SKETCH AT THE RAILWAY STATION, ALEXANDRIA.

STREET SCENE AT CAIRO.



STATION IN THE DESERT.

boat, Sir? A good boat!" "Like a swim, Sir?" by semi-clothed natives. "Here, gentlemen—I say, master, take a boat?" "Here, here, want change for a sovereign?" Such were the cries I heard all day from Achmet, from Selim, from Abdallah, from Ali, e tutti quanti. The dinners were awfully noisy—nearly 300 people at dinner, and no bells. When you want the man you clap your hands; Englishmen out of England being the merriest dogs in existence—we

mayancy 300 people clapping their hands at once! The poor darkies did not know where to run.

Shepherd's Hotel has been long known as the fashionable resort of the Egyptian tourist, as well as the great halting-place for the Indian passengers en route for our great Eastern possessions; perhaps, in no hotel in the world do you find such an assemblage of people of rank and fashion, from all countries, as are found daily sitting down to the

table d'hôte, in the grand saloon of this establishment. This year there has been a greater number of travellers than usual—English Earls, German Barons, the leading men of the United States, Russian Counts, &c.; and there have been for several days Swedish, Brazilian, Austrian, American, Dutch, and Australian families, besides a great many English travellers, all sitting down together at the table. The hotel is beautifully situated in the Esbekieh Gardens, or Park, Cairo.



SKETCH ON THE VERANDAH, AT SUEZ.

fortunate system inaugurated at the Revolution, which compels the subdivision of land into small parcels, renders good farming impossible, and has virtually prohibited the rearing and the grazing of cattle, and forced the people to eat horseflesh instead of beef and mutton. The fact seems to be that Europe, under the present social and political as well as commercial systems which prevail, does not produce food enough for its people; and France, with its bigoted Protectionism, its comparatively small commerce, and its large population living miserably on small farms, is among the first to suffer from the scarcity; while England—the storehouse of Europe and America—with an industrious and enterprising people, and complete Free-trade, has the choice of the world's wealth, and suffers far less from the general rise of prices than any other nation. The Emperor of the French has found it expedient to increase the pay of the lower grades of the military and of officials in the Government service; but this is but an aggravation of the evil. He cannot increase the wages of working men; and the increase of the salaries of officials and of military officers, small as it may be in each individual case, is large in the aggregate, and has to be defrayed out of the pockets of the taxpayers, and consequently out of those of the working population. The increase in the price of house accommodation at Paris may be accounted for by the demolitions caused to make room for the splendid improvements which the city owes to the magnificent ideas of the present Emperor; but such improvements, beautiful as they are, may be purchased at too high a rate. There is no Poor-law in France; and when the people suffer they have no resource but to blame the Government and to agitate and conspire against it. This is the danger which at present menaces public tranquillity in France, and which the domestic policy of the Emperor—though not with such an intention—has done very much to augment. The state of France is anything but wholesome. With a good system of land tenure, with an improved agriculture, and with Free-trade, France might assume a much higher economic and political position than she now holds in the world. Instead of being constantly on the verge of revolution, and only kept from violent outbreak by an armed force of half a million of men, and a continual conscription, she might largely increase her population as well as her wealth, and grow alike in virtue and in happiness. We must do the Emperor the justice to acknowledge that he estimates at their full value the blessings which Free-trade might confer upon his country; but the task of introducing its principles into the densely ignorant minds of French manufacturers and operatives seems at present to be too great for even him to attempt. But he has fettered the press, and one of the penalties which he must pay is the continued prevalence of error among his people. Until this error be removed, France, we fear, must lag behind in the race of improvement, and be a cause of disquiet both to herself and to her neighbours.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty's recovery, we rejoice to announce, is complete. The bulletin issued on Monday was to the following gratifying effect:—

Buckingham Palace, April 23, 1857, 9 a.m.

The Queen is convalescent.

The infant Princess is well.

Her Majesty's recovery is so far advanced that no further bulletins will be issued. The members of the Royal family, the diplomatic corps, and the aristocracy continued to make inquiries until after this announcement was made public, since which, no further cause for anxiety existing, the calls at the Palace have become less frequent.

The Prince Consort and the younger members of the Royal family have taken daily riding and walking exercise. The Prince has made frequent visits to Gloucester House, to inquire after the health of his illustrious relative, the Duchess of Gloucester, generally accompanied by some of the youthful members of the Royal family.

On Wednesday the Queen had sufficiently recovered to receive visits from the Duchesses of Kent and Princesses of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, when the latter took leave of her Majesty on their departure for the Continent.

The Marchioness of Ely has succeeded the Duchess of Wellington as the Lady in Waiting to her Majesty. The Hon. Mortimer Sackville-West has relieved Colonel the Hon. A. N. Hood in his duties as the Groom in Waiting to the Queen.

THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester is lying in a very precarious state. Her Royal Highness had enjoyed her accustomed health up to Wednesday evening, and on that day received a few friends to tea. On the following day she was seized with a spasmodic attack, which, judging from the bulletins issued, leaves no hope of her recovery. On Thursday the following appeared:—

Gloucester House, April 23, 9 a.m.

FRANCIS HAWKINS, M.D.

ROBERT FERGUSON, M.D.

E. H. HILLS.

The members of the Royal family have been in constant attendance on their venerable relative from the first moment of her indisposition.

THE HEREDITARY GRAND DUCHESS OF MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ. The Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, accompanied by her son, Prince Adolphus, arrived in London on Monday from the Continent. Her Royal Highness went direct to the residence of the Duchess of Cambridge in St. James's Palace, and dined with her brother, the Duke of Cambridge, in the evening. The Hereditary Grand Duchess afterwards left town for the residence of the Duchess of Cambridge at Kew.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge, visited the Duchess of Kent and the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg on Tuesday, and took leave of the Princess of Hohenlohe and the Princess Feodore. Their Serene Highnesses the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg and the Princess Feodore, attended by Colonel Stephens, left Clarence House, St. James's, in the evening, and travelled by the South-Eastern Railway to Dover, en route to Germany.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by the Earl of Cardigan and Lord Panmure, left town by the South-Eastern Railway on Monday for Shorncliffe Camp, on a visit of inspection. The Duke returned to town to dinner in the evening.

The Earl and Countess Granville arrived in town yesterday morning from Paris.

DEPARTURE OF LORD ELGIN.—His Excellency the Earl of Elgin took his departure for Paris on Tuesday afternoon, accompanied by the Countess. The gentlemen associated with the noble Earl in his mission to China left London on Tuesday and Wednesday, to meet his Excellency, and then proceed via Marseilles to Alexandria. The Earl of Elgin intends to stay two or three days in Paris. The Countess will then take leave of him, and return to town in the early part of next week. The gentlemen attached to the mission are the Hon. F. Bruce, Mr. Oliphant, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Fitzroy.

ARCHDEACON DENISON'S CASE.—THE JUDGMENT REVERSED.—On Thursday morning the Dean of Arches proceeded to deliver judgment on one of the most important points connected with the appeal of the Archdeacon of Taunton. It will be remembered that one of the grounds relied upon by Dr. R. Phillimore (for the Archdeacon) on Monday was that proceedings had not been taken against the Archdeacon within two years, according to the provisions of the Church Discipline Act, and that, therefore, the whole matter must fall to the ground. The subject was fully argued on Monday and Tuesday, and it was upon this point that the Dean of Arches gave his decision. The learned Judge, after reviewing all the facts of the case, said he must pronounce for the appeal, thus reversing the decision which dismissed the Archdeacon from his preferments in the Church. Dr. Phillimore applied for costs. The learned Judge said he must decline to make any order. Mr. Bathurst, on the part of Mr. Ditcher, gave notice of an appeal to the Judicial Committee of Privy Council.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

HER Majesty's restoration to health is advancing with happy rapidity, and arrangements for the Queen completing her term of convalescence in the sea air are semi-officially announced. The new Princess is as fortunate as her Royal mother. There is, however, a shadow upon the Palace. Bulletins, increasing in significance, seem to indicate the approach of a peaceful termination to the prolonged life of the venerable Duchess of Gloucester, fourth daughter of King George III. The age which her Royal Highness has been permitted to attain scarcely leaves room for hope that her present condition is other than the gentle dissolution of octogenarian existence. It is a happy sign that the amiable lady, in the late hours of life, finds pleasure in the presence and prattle of the younger children of the Queen.

The new Parliament will immediately assemble for the purpose of taking the oaths and otherwise qualifying itself for the discharge of its great functions. These formalities will occupy some days, after which it is supposed that a brief adjournment will take place. Mr. Evelyn Denison has been officially adopted by the Administration as the candidate for the Speakership, and may therefore, regard being had to the numerical condition of parties, be considered as Lord Eversley's successor. Some of our contemporaries have confused a portion of Mr. Denison's antecedents with those of Mr. Beckett Denison, and have given the intended Speaker credit for having furnished the Parliamentary voice which is to be "lifted up" on the clock tower—the great bell. This was cast from the design of Mr. B. Denison, who recently delivered an interesting lecture on the subject at the Royal Institution. He is a Conservative, Mr. E. Denison being a Liberal.

The Postmaster-General's Annual Report is always received with interest, not only as a matter of curiosity, but as an index to the social progress of the country. A few of its leading points may be mentioned here, but the whole document will well repay perusal. 368 new post-offices have been added to the previous number, and we have, in all, 10,866. During the last year there were 478,000,000 letters posted in the United Kingdom—the proportion in England giving about 20 to each person, in Scotland 16, and in Ireland only seven. In London the proportion is about 40 to each person. The increase is 22,000,000 in last year, and sixfold upon the number in 1839, before the penny postage. The initial system, for promoting rapid delivery, is officially stated to be making great way with the public, as we announced some weeks since was the case. A third of the London district letters are already initialised—a number amounting to 55,000—and a great proportion of the letters from the country. In most of the districts buildings, or sites for buildings, for the offices have been obtained, and the new system will soon be in full play. Meantime every intelligent person should, by example and by advice, assist the Post-office in working out the scheme. The trouble of affixing the initials is so slight, and the benefit so palpable, that stolidity or petulance alone can omit the process. It is, let us add, a curious fact, that one letter in every 200 (2,400,000 in the year) is returned to the writer, the attempt to deliver it having failed. Carelessness in directing the epistle is doubtless the reason, in eight cases out of ten.

Mr. Linklater continues his hebdomadal process upon the officials of the British Bank, and the Hon. John Stapleton, the Deputy Governor, has been the latest victim. His examination presents on point to which we desire to call attention. Before the bubble burst, warning statements appeared in the *Joint-Stock Journal*, in which the nefarious system that was being pursued by the British Bank was painted in colours so vivid that it is somewhat remarkable that the exposure did not excite more attention. It did excite some, and Mr. Esdaile, the Governor, was written to on the part of frightened depositors and shareholders. The answer that was prepared, in order to allay the terrors of the applicants, is a thoroughly characteristic specimen of the way in which the "Mr. Merdles" affect to speak of the press when it is not scattering incense before them. "Scurrilous attack," "from a discarded employee," "low-bred vituperation," "columns of a print which has barely reached its twentieth number"—this is the language and logic with which a righteous impeachment was met. No wonder that the statements in the print in question were read amid "sensation," especially those which predicted "bankruptcy, broken hearts, and helpless despair." But this was a scurrilous and low-bred attack, according to the officials of the British Bank. The public may take it as a general rule that, when an official of any kind affects to speak contemptuously of the press, the sooner that official is relieved from responsibility the safer will be the persons with whose interests he has to deal.

Neapolitan Government organs are making an endeavour to refute the accusations brought against the King and his advisers of using torture to extort confessions and to punish offenders. But a lame and late denial, unsupported, except by some weak sophistry, can do little against the cumulative testimony which has been so long gathering together, and against the deeply-rooted conviction in the hearts of the Neapolitans. There can be no doubt that torture is malignantly, as well as judicially, applied in the King's prisons. Meantime, and until the explosion takes place, it may be pleasant for English people to know that the passages in our Parliamentary debates in which the leaders of faction have assailed the Italian policy of Lord Palmerston are reprinted as "praises of the King of Naples," and are circulated by thousands, as his praises, "sung by Derby, John Russell, Disraeli, Gladstone, and M. Gibson." How can these personages be at a loss for a party cry with the names of their chief friends and protégés ready to their lips—"Yeh and Bomba"?

We are very sorry to see Mr. Gladstone's name arrayed in such a cause, recollecting that, in days when he was uninfluenced by faction, he gave vent to the natural impulses of an Englishman, and exposed and denounced the Neapolitan atrocities in a way which stirred the pulses of free nations, and made his name odious to the despots of the Continent.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. MASTERMAN.—It having been determined, on the retirement of Mr. Masterman from the representation of the city of London, to present him with a testimonial expressive of the grateful feelings of his constituents for the services he had rendered to the commercial community during his Parliamentary life of nearly sixteen years, and for his courteous attention to individual grievances, irrespective of political considerations, a committee was formed to carry such object into effect, comprising bankers and merchants of various political opinions. Mr. Thomas Baring consented to act as chairman, and Mr. Russell Ellice as deputy chairman. The first meeting of the committee was held on Monday afternoon, at the London Tavern, when it was resolved that the subscriptions should not exceed five guineas each, with a view to secure a general expression of feeling, and that the form of testimonial should be determined hereafter, at a general meeting of the subscribers. The committee embraces the names of the following among other gentlemen:—Messrs. T. Baring, George Carr Glyn, M.E., J. D. Powles, Samuel Gurney, M.P., R. C. L. Bevan, Thomson Hanky, M.P., K. D. Hodgeson, M.P., Frederick Huth, Lewis Loyd, R. W. Crawford, M.P., Sir James Duke, M.P., Sheffield Neave (Governor of the Bank of England), M. T. Weguelin, M.P., Abel Smith, M. T. Smith, M.E., John Ingram Travers, H. W. Schneider, M.P., E. W. Roberts, Henry Sykes Thornton, J. P. Gassiot, and J. B. Heath. Mr. Samuel Brown, of Threadneedle-street, is appointed honorary secretary.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

FUNERAL OF A FRENCH EXILE.—Last Sunday morning an immense assemblage attended the funeral of M. Rougée, a French exile, whose body was interred at the Tower Hamlets Cemetery. The funeral started from the residence of the deceased in Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road. As soon as the coffin was placed in the hearse, and the widow and the immediate friends in the mourning coach, the foreign exiles, to the number of about 2000, formed in procession, and followed, carrying flags, bearing various Republican devices, encircled with crape fringed with silver. The procession proceeded up Union-street, through the Borough, over London-bridge, and along Fenchurch-street and the Mile-end-road, to the Tower Hamlets Cemetery. Large as the procession was at starting, it increased in magnitude as it proceeded, until by the time it arrived at the canal bridge in the Mile-end-road it could not have numbered less than 10,000. When the coffin was lowered into the grave, M. Pyat pronounced a funeral oration over the grave. M. Tilander, M. Louis Blanc, M. Dillart, and Mr. Nash also addressed the assemblage. At the conclusion of the orations cries of "Vive la République Démocratique et Sociale" resounded through the multitude. The people, who had conducted themselves with decorum, then retired peacefully from the burial-ground.

SALE OF THE PROPERTY OF LEOPOLD REDPATH.—On Tuesday last, at the Auction Mart, the freehold, leasehold, and reversionary property of the notorious Leopold Redpath was offered for sale by Mr. Marsh. The freehold residence at Weybridge, Surrey, fitted up and decorated at a great expense, with pleasure and kitchen gardens, stabling, &c., and purchased by Redpath so recently as the spring or last year, sold for £2670. The leasehold residence, 49, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, held for an unexpired term of thirty years at a nominal ground rent of £6 per annum, and let at a rental of £85 per annum, sold for £800. The reversion to a freehold house, Marsham-street, Westminster, on the death of a lady and gentleman, aged respectively seventy-five and eighty-one, of the yearly value of £42, sold for £350. A similar reversion to a house, Richmond-buildings, Soho, let at a rental of £54 per annum, sold for £560.

GREAT FIRE AT LAMBETH.—On Wednesday morning, between four and five o'clock, a fire of a most destructive character happened in the range of premises belonging to Mr. Stephen Green, Imperial Pottery, Lambeth. The building in which the fire broke out was the new factory, about 120 feet long, by 50 feet wide, in the centre of which were four immense kilns. Owing to a scanty supply of water, and the smallness of the mains in that locality, the fire spread with amazing rapidity, and it was several hours before the conflagration was subdued. The damage is estimated at £6000. Mr. Green was insured in the Unity Fire Office.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The total number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday was 1840, showing a slight increase on the return of the previous week, which was 1590. In the ten years 1847-56 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1658. Last week the births of 1002 boys and 931 girls, in all 1933 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1567.

THE MADRAS ARMY.—NATIVE INFANTRY.

The force and efficiency of the Army in India is now a subject of passing interest, and has, doubtless, suggested the accompanying communication with which we have been favoured by a Correspondent. The Group comprises the different uniforms worn in the various ranks of the Native Infantry of the Honourable East India Company's Madras Establishment. The sketch was taken by a native artist; and the likenesses, particularly those of the natives, are very characteristic. The dresses, appointments, &c., are most carefully and exactly executed. The men were selected at random from the grenadier company of the 21st Regiment, now on detached duty at Coimbatore. There are in the Madras Army fifty-two regiments of Native Infantry. To each corps stand posted twenty-six European officers, viz.: one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, seven captains, eleven lieutenants, and five ensigns, besides a surgeon or assistant-surgeon. Out of this number there are seldom a dozen doing regimental duty. Let us take the 21st, for instance, which has more than an average number. With it there are twelve officers, including the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Quartermaster, two young officers recently joined at Adjutant's drill, and four officers, on outpost duty with their companies at Coimbatore, Trichoor, and Dindigul—stations varying from thirty to one hundred and twenty miles from Paulghautcherry, the head-quarters of the regiment, with which are six and a half companies. The Court of Directors recently sent out orders to increase the Captains from six to seven in number, and Lieutenants from ten to eleven—thereby adding two officers to each regiment of Native Infantry. This was a move in the right direction, but still far from sufficient to meet the exigencies of the service. There ought to be ten Captains; and, doubtless, will be some day. From the 21st Regiment there are only two officers absent in Europe—the one on furlough, the other on sick certificate. Besides these and those above enumerated, the remainder are all employed on Staff and Civil duties in various parts of India. No wonder the cry is for "More officers!" and that the late lamented General Sir Charles Napier, when Commander-in-Chief in India, so strongly advocated that demand.

In our Sketch the native Sirdars (officers) are on the right of the European officer (in the mid-distance)—the Subadar in full dress, the Jemadar in undress. Our Artist has portrayed a Havildar and a Drummer in full dress, one Sepoy in heavy marching order, and another in fatigue-dress. There are in each regiment ten lascars, who are available for every kind of work pertaining to the office of pioneer, or connected with the regimental stores. The lascar may be noticed seated to the left of the group; near him is the pucckally, or water-carrier, one being allowed to each company, whose duty it is to supply water to the guards, hospital, and men of the company; he has to provide himself with a bullock to carry the water borne in puckles (leather bags), so graphically delineated in our Engraving. If a soldier leaves at his death any male children, they are at once entertained as pension boys upon half the pay of an effective sepoy, with a view to transfer to the ranks when they attain the requisite height and physical proportions, failing of which their support from the State ceases at the age of eighteen. One of these pension boys our Artist has delineated.

All the native ranks wear the extraordinary head-gear, or puggree, and the non-commissioned and sepoys the sandals discarded by the Bombay and Bengal Armies something like half a century ago. The puggree is hideous in shape and useless in practice—it is made of basket-work, covered over with several coats of black paint, and varnished; and it cannot by any possibility be made to fit the head, and is entirely at the mercy of the slightest breeze. On the march or on service it is useless and in the way, and is usually thrown aside. The sandals the Madras Army do well to retain; from infancy the sepoy is accustomed to the naked foot and sandal; he is a much more efficient man, and can undergo much more fatigue with a sandal than a boot on his foot. Where the boot is worn, as in two regiments of the Madras Army, and throughout the Native Infantry of the sister Presidencies, when off duty it is immediately discarded, only to be resumed when discipline renders it imperative.

The European style of dress adopted in the three regular armies of India is not only exceedingly unpopular with all ranks, as unbecoming, uncomfortable, inefficient, and expensive; but experience has proved that it is bad taste to confine, shackle, squeeze, and oppress the limbs with belts, buttons, buckles, straps, tight coats and trousers; besides a heavy musket, knapsack, and other et ceteras.

The present inefficiency of the army is thus glanced at by a writer in the *Madras Atheneum* of February 3:

One third of the Madras Army is now occupied in garrisoning Burmah. True, it may be argued that the condition of this Presidency is now so peaceful that we can dispense with a portion of our forces, no longer necessary for the suppression of internal tumult, or to overawe the treasonably inclined. But we put forward this striking fact only as an example of what has been taking place all over the empire. A few irregulars have been raised here and there, as this or that kingdom has been fished or wrested from its owners; but the increase of the army has not at all been proportioned to the enlargement of our dominions; and we know that one of the highest military officers in the Presidency, perhaps the very highest as an authority on this point, has not hesitated to express his alarm at the present disjointed, scattered state of our forces. Pursue the examination and we shall find that the same necessity which has thus dispersed our army has reduced our regiments to mere skeletons individually. We have drawn upon our military officers to fill Commissions and Residencies, Magistracies, and Civil Engineerships, conservancies of forests, photographic fiddle-faddle, picturings of caves of Ellora and Ajanta, road makings, public works, and what not, everything, in short, of anything but a military character, until our regiments cannot possibly be efficiently commanded; and those who remain at their posts, the "refuse," as they have been politely termed by a brother officer, have treble their appropriate duties to perform, and, of course, get through them languidly and with disgust. We have only to look down the pages of an Army List to realise vividly the working condition of our various regiments.



LASCAR.

BULLOCK WITH WATER-BAGS.

PUCKALLY (WATER-CARRIER).

PENSION BOY.

SEPOYS (PRIVATE).

HAVILDAR (SERGEANT).

DRUMMER.

THE MADRAS ARMY: NATIVE INFANTRY: GRENADIERS, 21ST REGIMENT.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE PERSIAN WAR: THE CHARGE OF THE 3RD BOMBAY CAVALRY, AT THE BATTLE OF KOOSHAB.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE CAVALRY CHARGE AT KOOSHAB.

UPON the preceding page we have engraved the scene of one of the most brilliant incidents in the Persian War—the charge of the 3rd Bombay Cavalry, which has called forth the admiration of a Bengal officer, who cites it in proof of what horsemen, well led, can do against infantry. After describing the formation of the Persian square as excellent, steady, and untouched by artillery, he proceeds (in a letter to a Calcutta paper) with a vivid description of the charge.

We quoted the details in our journal of last week, a few of which we repeat:—

When Forbes, who commanded the regiment, gave the order to charge, he and his Adjutant, young Moore, placed themselves in front of the 6th troop, which was the one directly opposite the nearest face of the square. The other Moore, Malcolmson, and Spens came the least thing behind, riding knee to knee, with spurs in their horses' flanks. In rear of them rushed the dark troopers of the 3rd. In spite of steel, fire, and bullets they tore down upon the nearest face of the devoted square. As they approached Forbes was shot through the thigh, and Spens' horse was wounded, but unheeding they swept onward. * * * The barrier once broken, and the entrance once made, in and through it poured the avenging troopers. On and over everything they rode, till, getting clear out, they re-formed on the other side, and swept back—a second wave of ruin. Out of 500 Persian soldiers of the 1st Regular Regiment of Fars, who composed that fatal square, only twenty escaped to tell the tale of destruction. Thus the 3rd Light Cavalry, to use their own phrase, gave our enemies a *jewab* (answer) for the death of Malet Sakib Bahadur.

THE WEATHER.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 1857.

Day.	Barometer at 9 A.M. 88 feet above level of sea corrected and reduced.	Temperature.		Lowest Temperature.	Adopted Mean Temperature.	Dry Bulb	Wet Bulb	Dry Bulb	Wet Bulb	Direction of Cloud.	Amt. (0-10)	Rain in Inches.
		9 A.M.	3 P.M.									
April 16	Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	S. SE.	7	0.199
" 17	29.803	50.0	28.9	40.2	47.2	43.6	44.1	42.4	42.4	SE.	2	0.000
" 18	29.963	55.2	29.4	42.6	43.5	41.1	55.0	51.2	51.2	S. SE.	3	0.000
" 19	30.007	64.9	42.5	55.2	57.5	53.4	64.6	57.7	57.7	N.W.	0	0.000
" 20	29.929	65.4	43.3	56.2	59.6	54.5	64.9	56.4	56.4	N.W.	0	0.000
" 21	30.274	61.8	41.0	52.7	55.3	50.0	61.4	52.4	52.4	N.W.	6	0.042
" 22	30.287	58.8	40.4	50.1	52.4	48.2	58.4	51.1	51.1	W. NE.	10	0.157
Means	30.049	58.1	38.4	48.9	51.9	48.4	56.5	51.1	51.1			0.293

The range of temperature during the week was 36.5.

A violent hailstorm occurred at noon of the 16th, and several showers fell during the day. A little rain was falling on the evening of the 21st, and it was raining nearly continuously between 8h. a.m. and 3h. p.m. of the 22nd. The zodiacal light was noticed on the evenings of the 18th and 19th. A slight hoar frost was noticed on the morning of the 16th.

With the exception of the evening and night of the 21st, and the days of the 16th and 22nd, the sky has been generally free from cloud. The weather was very fine from April 17th to 21st. The nightingale was first heard on April 18th.

J. BREEN.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above sea 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF		THERMOMETER.		WIND.		RAIN	
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum Read.	Maximum Read.	in 24 hours.
April 15	Inches.	°	°	0-10	%	°	°	Miles.
" 16	29.851	41.8	36.7	84	6	30.2	50.6	Inches.
" 17	29.953	46.5	40.3	81	9	32.8	57.8	
" 18	29.927	56.3	44.1	66	5	46.1	65.8	
" 19	30.046	64.4	45.3	73	1	49.2	63.9	
" 20	30.254	52.6	40.3	66	2	39.9	61.8	
" 21	30.268	50.1	37.7	65	4	40.5	58.9	

The daily means are obtained from observations made at 6h. and 10h. a.m., and 2h., 6h., and 10h. p.m., on each day, except Sunday, when the first observation is omitted. The corrections for diurnal variation are taken from the tables of Mr. Glaisher. The "Dew-point" and "Relative Humidity" are calculated, from observations of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, by Dr. Ajpjohn's Formula and Dalton's Tables of the Tension of Vapour. The movement of the wind is given by a self-registering Robinson's Anemometer, the amount stated for each day being that registered from midnight to midnight.

BRAHMIN'S AND D'ARREST'S COMETS.—The comet discovered by M. D'Arrest is now becoming much fainter, but is still favourably situated for observation, and can yet be seen with a small telescope. The Right Ascension on April 25th is 5h. 33m., and its North Polar Distance 67 deg. 15 min. On May 1st the Right Ascension will be 5h. 59m., and its North Polar Distance 72 deg. 4 min.; and on May 10th its Right Ascension will be 6h. 22m. and North Polar Distance 78 deg. On April 27th it will be situated one degree north of Chi 3 Orionis; and on April 29th it will be near Chi 3 Orionis. On May 3rd and 4th it will be in the neighbourhood of 69 and 72 Orionis. The comet discovered by M. Brahmin arrived at its greatest brightness about the middle of April, and is becoming gradually fainter, but is still much brighter than when first discovered. On May 12th it will appear of the same degree of brightness as when first seen; and on June 1st it will only be half that lustre. It is very well situated for observation, and is now visible throughout the night. The Right Ascension on April 25th is 5h. 2m., and its North Polar Distance 36 deg. 35 min. On May 1st its Right Ascension will be 6h. 3m. North Polar Distance 30 deg. 44 min. On May 8th its Right Ascension will be 7h. 38m., and its North Polar Distance 26 deg. 57 min. On May 15th its Right Ascension will be 9h. 21m., and its North Polar Distance 27 deg. 46 min. On May 22nd its Right Ascension will be 10h. 42m., and its North Polar Distance 32 deg. 25 min. On June 1st its Right Ascension will be 11h. 56m., and its North Polar Distance 41 deg. 47 min. At midnight of April 28th it will be close to 24 Camelopardi, and on May 1st about a degree south of 40 Camelopardi. On May 10th it will be close to 57 Camelopardi, and on May 22nd it will be near 43 Ursae Majoris.—B.

THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE.—The Russian squadron entered the roadstead at Toulon on Monday afternoon. The Grand Duke Constantine landed at the Arsenal, and was received by the Maritime Prefect, the Prefect of the Var, and Admiral Trehozan. He was saluted by twenty-one guns from each of the French vessels as he passed them, after which the whole squadron fired a general salute, and the crews manned the yards and cheered. A great number of steamers filled with strangers followed the Russian and French squadrons on their arrival in the roadstead. The Prince, immediately on his landing, spontaneously offered to review the troops, which were drawn up in line to receive him. At nine o'clock on Tuesday morning the Grand Duke visited the Arsenal. The crowd assembled was immense. The warmest reception was also given to General Todleben. A grand review of 50,000 men will take place in the Champ de Mars during the visit of the Grand Duke Constantine at Paris. The 6th of May, it is thought, will be the day fixed on for this fine military spectacle. The Grand Duke Constantine is in the thirtieth year of his age, having been born on the 21st of September, 1827. He married, on the 11th of September, 1848, the daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Altenburg. The Grand Duke has three children—a son, Nicolas; and two daughters, Olga and Vera.

THE HOPE OF THE NAPOLEON DYNASTY.—The Imperial Prince, besides going most afternoons in state, escorted by Guides, to the Bois de Boulogne, is now taken out at eight or nine every morning on the reserved terrace of the Tuilleries gardens overlooking the Seine. Sometimes he may be seen in his lilliputian goat-carriage—the goats led by two little footmen, a nurse walking on each side, and a tall lackey behind. This morning I happened to be passing through the gardens when the Imperial infant was returning to the Palace from his promenade. On this occasion he was not in the carriage, but in the arms of one of his nurses—the other being in attendance, and the tall footman close at hand. The passers-by on the quay near the Pont Royal rushed to the railing which separates the quay from the private garden, to see the hope of the Napoleon dynasty. At the time the Emperor, without his hat, and smoking a cigar, was enjoying the fine morning, walking up and down the gravel walk in front of the little private staircase leading into his apartments. When he saw the nursery cortège approaching he advanced a few steps, graciously bowed to the nurses, and, with a playful expression on his countenance, kissed his babe, to the great delight of a considerable assemblage, who beheld the scene at the distance of only a few yards. The child looks remarkably plump and well.—Letter from Paris.

The Hon. Neal Dow arrived in Liverpool on Monday morning, per the *Europa*, in order to make a tour of the United Kingdom, and make known the state of the Maine Liquor Law throughout the United States.

MUSIC.

THE two Italian Operas have not been inactive since our last report of their proceedings.

"LA FAVORITA," with which HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE opened on Tuesday, last week, for the débuts of Mlle. Spezia, Signor Giuglini, and Signor Vialetti, was repeated on the following Thursday and Saturday. On both these occasions, and especially the last, Giuglini's pre-eminent merits, both as a singer and an actor, were fully recognised; and there is now but one opinion among those competent to judge—that he is the most accomplished and finished tenor that has appeared on the London Opera boards since the days of Rubini. Mlle. Spezia, too, has received the justice which was not entirely done to her at first. At the outset she was injured, not only by her own excessive timidity, but by the quantity of newspaper praise previous to her appearance—which, in nine cases out of ten, does a stranger more harm than good. Extravagant expectations having thus been raised, some disappointment was the consequence; but, when this lady came to be judged on her own merits, she established herself firmly in the favour of the public, which was shown by the great warmth of her reception on her last appearance.

Mademoiselle Piccolomini, the pet of the public last year, has reappeared, and will, in all probability, be as great a pet as ever. There was an immense assemblage on Tuesday evening to witness her performance of *Maria* in the "Figlia del Reggimento," and the audience were quite rapturous in their demonstrations of admiration and pleasure. Thunder of applause, acclamations, repeated calls before the curtain, showers of wreaths and bouquets—every element of triumph was hers. There is no change in her, we think, since last year, either for the better or worse. She has got a little stouter, and that is all. Her voice is just what it was, and we find no traces of artistic improvement in her method of singing; while, as an actress, she resembles the clever French women of the Opéra Comique and the other theatres of the Boulevards. In a word, she is a very delicious creature, but no great artist, nor do we see any prospect of her ever becoming one. We may be very well pleased, however, to have her as she is.

AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA Donizetti's "Maria di Rohan" was performed on Saturday and Monday last, with moderate success. Such success as it had was due to the powerful tragic acting of Ronconi, to whom, indeed, this opera—a work of small intrinsic merit—owes all the success it has ever enjoyed. But one swallow does not make a summer, neither does one character make a play. Ronconi in the powerful scene of the catastrophe is terrible—appalling. But then we arrive at this scene after a long course of dreary commonplace; and moreover, the pleasure derived from Ronconi's powers as a tragedian is lessened by his defects as a singer—by his almost total loss of voice and his false intonation. Mlle. Rosa Devries, a comely lady, "fat, fair, and forty," is too comfortable-looking to be the guilty heroine of a black and gloomy tale, though she has a fine voice and much talent as a singer. Signor Neri Baraldi (who was scarcely heard last season) sang the tenor part, and acquitted himself well, though he had very little room for the display of his powers. Mlle. Didie had more applause than any one else. She has made great progress, and is one of the best contraltos we have ever had on our Opera stage.

THE Concerts of the PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY began on Monday evening. The programme of the performance was as follows:—

1. Sinfonia in E flat. No. 8
2. Alla "Di militari onori" (Jessonda), Signor Belletti
3. Concerto in D minor, pianoforte, Miss Arabella Goddard
4. Arioso, Madame Kudersdorf.
5. Overture (Euryanthe).
1. Sinfonia in D. No. 10
2. Concertino Violoncello, en forme d'une scène chantante, Sig. Piatti
3. Duesto, "Quel aspolo" (Agnes), Mme. Kudersdorf and Sig. Belletti
4. Overture (Les Deux Journées)

Conductor, Professor Sterndale Bennett.

It speaks for itself, for it is a collection of gems unmixed with a grain of baser matter. Haydn's Eighth Symphony is one of those old things which never grow old—which, be their date what it may, never lose their freshness. Beethoven's Symphony in D, more modern and on a grander scale, brought out all the powers of the magnificent orchestra. Miss Arabella Goddard (who at the eleventh hour supplied the place of M. Charles Hallé, disabled from appearing by a painful accident) gathered new laurels by her superb performance of Mendelssohn's Concerto. At the conclusion she was greeted with plaudits, loud and long, from all parts of the room. Piatti, in his solo on the violoncello, delighted the audience by his beautiful tone and brilliant execution. The vocal pieces were admirably sung by Madame Rudersdorf and Signor Belletti. The room was very full. We learn that the subscription to these concerts is large, and that there is every reason to anticipate a successful season.

THE Matinées of the MUSICAL UNION have also begun. They are always held on the mornings after the Philharmonic Concerts. The concert of Tuesday last consisted of the following pieces:—Mozart's Quartet in C for stringed instruments; Molique's Quartet, Op. 52, for the piano, violin, and violoncello; Spohr's Double Quartet in D minor; and a solo on the contrabass by Signor Bottesini. The most interesting incident of this concert was the first appearance in public of Mdile. Molique, who played the pianoforte part of her father's trio, accompanied by him and Signor Piatti. She was perfectly successful, showing herself to be a highly-accomplished young pianist. She is, we understand, a pupil of M. Hallé, and does honour to her distinguished instructor. Bottesini, who has arrived in London for the season, after an absence of several years, delighted the audience as much as ever by his marvelous and beautiful performance on his gigantic instrument. Willis's great room was crowded to the doors by the most fashionable company in London. Mr. Ella's management of the Musical Union well deserves its success; for no concerts are conducted with greater activity, judgment, and liberty to the artists engaged in them.

ONE of the most elegant and agreeable musical entertainments of the season is Mr. and Mrs. Henri Drayton's "Illustrated Proverbs." It consists of a little drama, in the style of the vaudeville of the Parisian stage, but containing only two characters, personated by this clever pair. The pieces, now running with great success, are called "Better Late than Never," and "Never Despair." The last, on the well-known subject of "Monsieur Jacques," is a pleasant mixture of the pathetic and the lively. They are admirably acted, and interspersed with songs and duets, very prettily sung.

A TESTIMONIAL has been presented to Mr. Henry Leslie, conductor of the orchestra of the Amateur Musical Society, by a large body of the members, as a mark of their esteem and appreciation of his eminent services to the society as conductor and Honorary Secretary. It is an elegant inkstand, designed and manufactured by Messrs. Hunt and Roskell. The figure is emblematical of music; at the base are the names of the most eminent composers and a list of the more important compositions of Mr. Leslie. It was presented to Mr. Leslie, at a full rehearsal of the Society, in the presence of the subscribers; the eminent Amateur-Oboist, Mr. Alfred Pollock, acting as spokesman on the occasion.

THE THEATRES, &c.</

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

FRANCES **COUNTESS** **WALDEGRAVE**, on the Friday in last week, reopened Strawberry Hill to a select circle of her Ladyship's friends! The gallery in that romance in lath and plaster was, we believe for the first time, turned into a ball-room. Archaeologists who recollect Strawberry Hill in the days of Horace Walpole, of whom there are few now living, can call to mind a sunny period, when Strawberry Hill was richly crowded with the rare collections brought together by Horace Walpole himself, during half a century of close attention to auction-rooms, and old china closets, and all the Wardour-streets of that day. Our archaeological friends must have at once remarked the difference between the gallery as they remember it and the gallery as then presented to them; and yet there was, perhaps, after all, little difference. It is true that some of the old portraits were missing. We missed, as others missed, the Roman Eagle and the famous Bust of Vespasian; but the fireplaces and fretted recesses were there, fresh gilt it is true, and looking very modern, and yet, notwithstanding, old as if Walpole himself had invited his favourite Duchess and Lady Mary Coke, with Selwyn and Lord Edgcumbe, to partake of his Christmas festivities. Others—but they were very few in number—remembered that Strawberry Hill was stripped and sold by the unsparing hammer of George Robins; yet all admitted that her Ladyship's purse, and, above all, her Ladyship's good taste, have been the means of bringing together many of the choicer treasures of the place. Thus at one end of the gallery is hung a charming picture, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of the three Ladies Waldegrave, that picture for which Walpole complained that Sir Joshua had charged him an exorbitant price, some say 800 guineas; Walpole himself mentions a thousand guineas; while others thought that the Marquis of Hertford or Mr. Holford would be glad to give to-morrow, at Christie's, at least 2000 guineas for a picture so exquisite. We will not enter into the calculation of the interest of the money between Walpole's first outlay and the actual value of the picture at the present moment; but it cannot be questioned that every day will add to the value of any great picture by Sir Joshua, of which the colours, as in this striking instance, are unquestionably unfading. The other parts of Strawberry Hill were restored in the same good taste, adapting what was valuable in the old to the taste and necessities of the present day. We are to remember that Strawberry Hill was a bachelor's villa, suited to the wants of a man who lived much in society, dedicating his time to visits in his own neighbourhood, Twickenham, to White's Clubhouse, his Duchess's loo-tables, and the ball-rooms of Bedford House and fashionable London. Nor let us forget that in no instance did more than three visitors sleep in the house at one time, that the house is no longer a bachelor's residence, but still, most unmistakably, thanks to Frances Lady Waldegrave, Strawberry Hill.

In other parts of this restored (and therefore still in lath and plaster) interesting house we observed pictures and curiosities of great consequence to the connoisseur and the collector brought from the Waldegrave seat at Navestock, in Essex, and from the family seat in Somersetshire. Are we not right in saying that this restoration of her Ladyship's will preserve Strawberry Hill for a century at least? But we do not like to be prophetic.

The month of May will be remarkable both in English literature and English art. May opens to us for the first time the most magnificent reading-room which any country has yet supplied to suit the demands of its reading population. We refer to Mr. Panizzi's reading-room at the British Museum. The same month of May will see opened the magnificent Gallery of the Art-Treasures of the United Kingdom at Manchester, where will be found assembled, at the cost of something like ninety thousand pounds, a collection of works of art that the wide-spread liberality of the possessors of fine works of art in the three kingdoms has enabled a most liberal committee to bring together. It is remarkable that neither this great permanent reading-room, nor this temporary exhibition of the fine arts, could have been made, or even attempted, unless for that recent wise act of the Legislature that took the duty off glass. With stones and bricks and wood we could have done nothing of the kind in England. Stones and bricks would have been too expensive, wood would have been too dangerous; glass and iron being the only materials suitable, and at the same time sufficiently cheap, to justify the erection of such structures.

Our readers will remember, some two years back, the long controversy that took place in the columns of our contemporary, the *Athenaeum*, respecting the importance of a portrait of Butler, the author of "Hudibras," sold by Mr. Farrer to the late Sir Robert Peel, and now at Drayton Manor. There could be no doubt that the picture which Mr. Farrer sold to Peel was genuine; but wise doubts were raised at the time whether the Farrer and Peel picture of the great author of "Hudibras" was the picture. Some of our contemporary's correspondents urged, with great appearance of justice, that the portrait of the poet in the Bodleian Gallery, at Oxford, was the original picture, and that the copy bought by Sir Robert Peel was a duplicate, though a good one. It is remarkable that in this correspondence no writer referred to a particular inscription to be seen on the portrait of the poet in the Bodleian Gallery. Both pictures were attributed—and we believe not improperly—to Scott; but no one observed, nor has the fact, to our knowledge, been pointed out hitherto, that on the portrait in the Bodleian this inscription is visible in the handwriting of Sir Godfrey Kneller:—"Samuel Butler, author of 'Hudibras.' Presented to the University of Oxford by Sir Godfrey Kneller." When we remember the bad light in which this picture is hung at the Bodleian, we, perhaps, have less ground for wonder than many would suppose; nor was it till the other day, when the picture was well seen for the first time since Kneller presented it to the Bodleian, a friend informs us, that on the walls of the Art-Treasures Exhibition at Manchester this inscription was plainly visible. There the inscription is: we state a fact which must be of great interest to all the admirers of the author of "Hudibras." Having said thus much, we leave any further controversy on the subject to Mr. Farrer and the correspondents of the *Athenaeum*, observing only that Kneller was thirty-two years of age at the death of Butler in 1680, and that this picture, after all, might be an early work of Sir Godfrey himself.

This subject naturally suggests to us, what others talk about, that there are portraits of consequence of which we hear the authorities at Manchester could learn no tidings—portraits which they are particularly desirous of adding to their collection. Thus we hear that the present possessor of the best portrait of Dr. Johnson, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, is unknown. We allude to the picture painted for Bennet Langton, of which Mrs. Thrale's picture, now in the possession of Sir Robert Peel, is a duplicate. Thus we hear also that the authorities are at a loss to discover who is now the owner of the portrait of Cowper the poet, by Abbot; and that they are equally at a loss to find the owner of the portrait of the great Lord Nelson, by the same artist. With every wish on our part to aid the Executive Committee of the Art-Treasures Exhibition in their praiseworthy effort to bring together a portrait-gallery of British celebrities, we give this publicity to their

wants, and shall indeed be happy if any of our many readers can assist us in pointing out who are now the possessors of these three celebrated portraits.

Artists are asking in what way, and that way the cheapest, they can best be conveyed to Manchester to see the Art-Treasures Exhibition. This question—it is one of moment to the success of the Exhibition—was answered, all but in slight matters of detail, in Manchester on Wednesday last, when the greatest railway officials assembled in the Exhibition building, and, after an attentive examination of the place, partook of a good luncheon, in which Mr. Donald contrived to rival Mr. Staples of the Albion, and Mr. Bath of the London Tavern, at cheaper, and therefore Manchester, prices. We are assured by town-talkers that express trains will run from London, Edinburgh, Birmingham, and the chief cities of the three kingdoms, at prices still lower than those enforced by the railway authorities at the Great Exhibition of 1851; and we believe what we hear.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PROCEEDINGS ON THE OPENING OF A NEW PARLIAMENT.

ON the first day of the meeting of a new Parliament, for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Royal proclamation, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in Great Britain delivers to the Clerk of the House a list of the names of the members returned to serve in such Parliament.

Members assemble in the House and await a message from the Lords Commissioners.

On receiving such message, delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod, the House goes up to the House of Peers.

Her Majesty's pleasure having been signified by the Lords Commissioners, that the members of the House shall proceed to the choice of some proper person to be their Speaker, and present such person on the following day for her Majesty's Royal approbation, the House returns.

The House forthwith proceeds to the election of a Speaker.

A member, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, points to him, and then sits down), proposes another member, then present, to the House for their Speaker, and moves that such member "do take the chair of this House as Speaker."

Such motion being seconded and supported, if no other member be proposed as Speaker, the member so proposed is called by the House to the chair, without any question being put.

The member, on being called to the chair, stands up in his place, and expresses his sense of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, and submits himself to the House.

Being again unanimously called to the chair, he is taken out of his place by the members who proposed and seconded him, and by them conducted to the chair.

If more than one member be proposed as Speaker, a motion is made and seconded regarding each such member, "That he do take the chair of this House as Speaker;" and each member so proposed addresses himself to the House.

A question is then put by the Clerk that the member first proposed "do take the chair of this House as Speaker;" which is resolved in the affirmative or negative like other questions.

If the question be resolved in the affirmative, the member is conducted to the chair; but if in the negative a question is then put by the Clerk that the member next proposed "do take the chair of this House as Speaker," and if it be resolved in the affirmative the member is conducted to the chair.

Having been conducted to the chair, the member so elected, standing on the upper step, returns his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour they had been pleased to confer upon him, and thereupon sits down in the chair; and then the mace (which before lay under the table) is laid upon the table.

A member, having then congratulated Mr. Speaker elect, moves that the House do now adjourn, and the House accordingly adjourns till to-morrow.

On the following day, the House being met, and Mr. Speaker elect having taken the chair, a message from the Lords Commissioners is delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod, desiring the immediate attendance of the House in the House of Peers.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker elect, with the House, goes up to the House of Peers, where he is presented to the Lords Commissioners for her Majesty's Royal approbation; and one of the Lords Commissioners signifies her Majesty's approbation of Mr. Speaker elect.

Mr. Speaker then, in the name and on the behalf of the Commons of the United Kingdom, lays claim to their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges; and especially to freedom from arrest and molestation, for their persons, and servants; to freedom of speech in debate; and to free access to her Majesty whenever occasion may require it; and that the most favourable construction may be put on all their proceedings.

The House being returned, Mr. Speaker reports that the House had been in the House of Peers; where her Majesty was pleased, by her Commissioners, to approve of the choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker; and that he had in their name, and on their behalf, by humble petition to her Majesty, laid claim to all their ancient rights and privileges, which her Majesty had confirmed to them in as full and ample manner as they have been heretofore granted or allowed by her Majesty, or any of her Royal predecessors.

Mr. Speaker then repeats his most respectful acknowledgments to the House for the high honour they had done him; and puts the House in mind that the first thing to be done is to take and subscribe the oaths by law required.

And thereupon Mr. Speaker, first alone, standing upon the upper step of the chair, takes the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and takes and subscribes the oath of abjuration, and delivers to the Clerk of the House an account of his qualification; and makes and subscribes a declaration that he is duly qualified.

Members being Roman Catholics take and subscribe the oath provided by the 10th George IV., c. 7, in-lieu of the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration.

The people called Quakers, Moravians, Separatists, and others, make and subscribe affirmations in lieu of oaths, according to law. (3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 49, 82; 1 & 2 Vict., c. 105.)

No member can take the oaths after four o'clock p.m. (30 Chas. 2, stat. 2; 13 Will. 3, c. 6.)

If any member desire to take the oaths before four o'clock, a debate or other business is interrupted, and he is called to the table for that purpose.

A member returned after a general election is introduced to the table between two members, making their obeisances as they go up, that they may be the better known to the House. (Resolution, 23rd Feb., 1858.)

Members seated on petition are not to be introduced.

Every member returned after a general election, on coming to the table to be sworn, is to produce a certificate that his return has been certified by the Clerk of the Crown to the Clerk of this House.

When the office of Speaker becomes vacant during a Session of Parliament, the House, on being acquainted by a Minister of the Crown that her Majesty gives leave to the House to proceed forthwith to the choice of a new Speaker, proceeds to the election of a Speaker, according to the accustomed forms.

When the Speaker so elected is presented for the Royal approbation, he does not lay claim to the privileges of the House.

By resolution, 4th August, 1853, whenever the House shall be informed of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means is to take the chair for that day only; and, in the event of Mr. Speaker's absence continuing for more than one day, is, if the House shall think fit, and shall so order it, to take the chair, in like manner, on any subsequent day during such absence.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

On being summoned by the Usher of the Black Rod to attend her Majesty or the Lords Commissioners, Mr. Speaker, with the House, goes up to the bar of the House of Peers, to hear the Royal Speech read.

Mr. Speaker and the House then retire from the bar of the House of Lords; and, returning to the House, pass through the same (the Serjeant placing the mace upon the table); and Mr. Speaker resumes the chair at a quarter before four o'clock.

Before her Majesty's Speech is reported, some bill is read a first time pro forma.

Mr. Speaker reports that the House had this day attended her Majesty (or had been at the House of Peers at the desire of the Lords Commissioners appointed under the Great Seal for holding this present Parliament), and that her Majesty was pleased to make a most gracious Speech from the throne to both Houses of Parliament (or the Lord Chancellor, being one of the said Commissioners, made a speech to both Houses of Parliament), of which Mr. Speaker says he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he reads to the House.

The said Speech having been read, a motion for an Address to her Majesty is made and seconded.

The proposer and seconder of such motion attend in their places in uniform or full dress.

The resolution for presenting such Address having been agreed to by the House, with or without amendments, a Select Committee is appointed to draw up an Address to be presented to her Majesty upon the said resolution; and her Majesty's most gracious Speech is referred to the said Committee.

On the Address being reported by the said Committee, the House resolves to agree to the same, with or without amendment.

When her Majesty has been pleased to make a Speech from the throne the Address is ordered to be presented by the whole House, unless her Majesty shall then be in the country.

In case her Majesty shall be in the country, or in case the Speech shall have been made by the Lords Commissioners, the Address is ordered to be presented by such members of this House as are of her Majesty's Most Hon. Privy Council.

Her Majesty's most gracious Speech (or the Speech of the Lords Commissioners) is ordered to be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House.

The House, at its next sitting, according to order, proceeds to take the said Speech into consideration; and so much of the same as was addressed to the members of the House of Commons is again read by Mr. Speaker; and, a motion being made that a supply be granted to her Majesty, a resolution is agreed to that the House will to-morrow, or on a future day, resolve itself into a Committee to consider that motion.

The following circular has been addressed to the members of the Liberal party of the House of Commons:

94, Piccadilly, 20th April, 1857.

Sir,—I take the liberty of informing you that the House of Commons will meet on Thursday, the 30th of this month, and will proceed on that day to the choice of a Speaker; and that the Address in answer to the Queen's Speech will be moved on Thursday, the 7th of May. I hope it may be consistent with your convenience to attend on those days.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

PALMERSTON.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—Parliament will be called together for dispatch of business on the 30th inst.; and it is likely that the election of Speaker and the swearing in of members will be completed before the 7th May, on which day the Queen is expected to deliver the Speech. It is said that there will be no opposition to the election of Mr. Evelyn Denison as Speaker, and that Mr. Fitzroy will resume his post as Chairman of Committees.

THE FALKIRK ELECTION.—A protest having been lodged by Mr. Baird's agent against Mr. Merry's election on account of alleged bribery, the electors of Hamilton have got up a counter petition, praying for an investigation, on the ground that they were subjected to intimidation, &c., by the commissioner of the Duke of Hamilton, in favour of Mr. Baird.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has appointed a committee of twelve shipowners to inquire into the alleged cruelties to seamen on board American merchant ships, and to adopt measures for the suppression of the abuse.

The Spanish Cortes are to open on the 1st of May. The present Government will be strongly supported by a large majority.

THE KILKENNY ELECTION.

IRELAND is more fertile in election exuberance than any other portion of her Majesty's dominions in which the franchise is exercised. Hence the "rows" have been frequent, the excitement great; but in few places was the national spirit more completely roused than on the nomination day (April 6) of the Kilkenny county election, when the Court-house presented the scene which is engraved on the ensuing page, from a sketch by Mr. Fitzpatrick. What an angry sea of electors are here giving a rough reception to the address of Mr. Serjeant Shee, whose energy, however, appears fully equal to the storm! What varieties of humour are portrayed in the assembled faces—from the good-tempered violence of the majority of the crowd, to the fierceness of the elector on the left beneath Mr. Serjeant Shee; while immediately beneath him is a phase of milder fun! And how complacently and delighted the folks in the galleries look down upon the broil below!

The results were singular. The canvass was so discouraging to the supporters of Serjeant Shee that he, according to the *Kilkenny Moderator*, had made up his mind to retire, but was afterwards persuaded to go to the poll. His only object in doing so was, says the *Freeman's Journal*, "to take a few votes from the popular candidates." That paper, in speaking of his defeat, says, had he been less headstrong and a little more conciliatory, it is plain, from the proceedings at the hustings, that mutual explanations might have resulted in his being re-elected without a contest; but he was as stiff as his offended supporters were stubborn; he avoided explanations till it was too late, and the result is he has lost his seat, and Ireland an able and creditable representative.

The gross poll for the two days gave an immense majority in favour of Ellis and Greene. The numbers were:—Ellis, 2587; Greene, 1620; Mostyn, 1314; Shee, 1034.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE EARL OF LINCOLN, M.P. FOR NEWARK.

THE present Duke of Newcastle is decidedly a young-looking man, even when one sees him out of the House of Lords, where the distances and soft lights may be supposed to assist delusions with regard to the personal appearance of our hereditary legislators. He is, nevertheless, although only born in 1811—the father of five children, the eldest of whom is of legal age to enter Parliament, with nearly a couple of years to spare. The Earl of Lincoln, the eldest son of his Grace, by Lady Susan Harriet Catharine Douglas, only daughter of the late Duke of Hamilton, was born on the 25th Jan., 1831, and consequently attained his majority in 1855. He was educated at Eton, and Oxford, having been a member of Christchurch, and graduated B.A. in 1853. He was returned at the general election for the borough of Newark—a fact somewhat remarkable, as indicating in a degree a return of an influence which up to the time of the Reform Bill was exercised by his family almost without dispute over the constituency in question; but it is probably more the personal popularity and Liberal opinion of the present Duke than any territorial weight which has secured on the present occasion the unopposed return of Lord Lincoln. The noble Earl professes to be a Liberal-Conservative, and a general but independent supporter of the present Government; he is an attached member of the Established Church, but in favour of religious freedom, and wishes for some satisfactory substitute for Church-rates. He is not inclined to withdraw the grant to Maynooth.

SIR ALEXANDER RAMSAY, BART., M.P. FOR ROCHDALE.

THE borough of Rochdale will be represented in the coming Parliament by Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart., of Balmain, in the county of Lancashire, Scotland. At the first blush an inquiry is obvious as to why a Scotch Baronet should represent a Lancashire borough. The answer is very simple. In the first place, Sir Alexander Ramsay married, in 1835, Ellen Matilda, eldest daughter of John Entwistle, Esq., of Foxholes, county of Lancaster; and we are enabled to state, from an authority which is generally received with respect, that at Rochdale the Parliamentary influence "is chiefly possessed by the great manufacturing firms, but the Entwistles, of Foxholes, have some influence, though not of a stable or commanding character." It was probably owing to the circumstance that we find Sir Alexander Ramsay of the 35th Regiment of Foot contesting the borough at the general election of 1857. He was defeated on that occasion by Mr

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.



SIR A. RAMSAY, M.P. FOR ROCHDALE.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.

as a general supporter of Lord Derby, it is just possible that in some quarters it might have been remembered that he is a connection by marriage of a Cabinet Minister, inasmuch as his father's second wife was a sister of Lord Pamure. Sir Alexander Ramsay is the third Baronet, being the eldest son of Alexander, second Baronet, by Jane, eldest daughter and coheiress of J. Russell, Esq., of Blackburn, and who died on the 20th April, 1852. The family is maternally descended from Sir John Ramsay, Knight, of Balmain and Tusque, Kincardineshire, who was created a Lord of Parliament by James III., and sat as Lord Bothwell; but, for his adherence to that sovereign, was outlawed, and his estates confiscated. He was, however, pardoned, though not restored to the Peerage. His grandson was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1625, and the title passed through seven Baronets, when it became extinct. The Baronetcy, however, was revived in 1806, in the person of Alexander Burnet, second son of Sir Thomas Burnet, Bart., of Leyes, by a sister of Sir Alexander Ramsay, sixth Baronet, who assumed the name and arms of Ramsay. The present Baronet was educated at Dresden.

MR. EDWARD WM. WATKIN, M.P. FOR GREAT YARMOUTH.

ONE of the newly-elected members for Great Yarmouth is Mr. Edward William Watkin, who, with Mr. Torrens M'Cullagh, so signalised the anti-Palmerston and Tory candidates at the recent very severe contest in the borough.

Mr. Watkin enters Parliament for the first time. He is emphatically one of the people, and in the recent contest has avowed that he owes

his position and fortune to his own exertions, and desires to be regarded in his true character—that of a useful and working citizen of a country which owes both its freedom and its power to the hard work and sacrifices of its people of all ranks.

Mr. Watkin was born in the borough of Salford, in September, 1819, and spent his earlier years in Manchester, having been taken from school and put to business at a very early age. He was for some years in business with his father, who is still alive, and is a magistrate for the borough of Manchester, and also for the county of Lancaster; and connected himself with our railway system at an early period of its history, at first partially, then entirely. He devoted himself to the prosecution of the Trent Valley and other railways, and became connected with the London and North-Western Company's undertakings.

Mr. Watkin is a steam-ship proprietor, and is now a director of the Oxford and Worcester and some other railways; and is also general manager of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. He has retrieved this latter undertaking from almost bankruptcy, and has doubled the value of its shares. He is, of course, very popular with the proprietors in consequence. Mr. Watkin is a railway reformer in the proper sense, and has introduced many important improvements in the finance and management of those vast undertakings; amongst



LORD LINCOLN, M.P. FOR NEWARK.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL

others the system of publishing the working expenses, as well as the income of railways, and of balancing the outlay, at short periods. This system, though not popular with red-tapists, is being gradually introduced amongst the more important lines, and will tend to reduce



MR. E. WATKIN, M.P. FOR GREAT YARMOUTH.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD AND FORD, MANCHESTER.

expenses, to give the shareholders a more ready means of judging how far their affairs are well managed, and to serve the public by enabling better organisation of those complicated systems.

Mr. Watkin is a decided Liberal, and in connection with the Free-trade and other movements has done his share of the Reform work of the country. He was the originator of the Public Parks at Manchester; and in 1846 received, in conjunction with his colleague, Mr. Malcolm Ross, a handsome testimonial at the hands of the town of Manchester. Mr. Watkin was an early and active director of the Athenaeum at Manchester, and has always been an earnest supporter of popular education. He is now president of the Gorton Institute, which he founded on behalf of the workmen of the Sheffield Company. On leaving town to return to Manchester in 1854, after a long absence, Mr. Watkin received from his friends and associates in London a testimonial valued at 1000 guineas, which was presented to him at a public dinner at the London Tavern. He also received from his colleagues and friends on the London and North-Western Railway a handsome épergne and service, presented at a dinner at Birmingham. Both these testimonials have been engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

Mr. Watkin is very well and favourably known in the industrial world generally, and also amongst literary men and politicians; he is a man of whom it may be said that he has very many friends and no enemies; and we predict for him an important career. Mr. Watkin is the author of two or three works—one a book of travels in the United States—which have been favourably reviewed in this journal. Mr. Watkin resides at Timperley, near Manchester.



THE KILKENNY ELECTION: MR. SERJEANT SHEE ADDRESSING THE ELECTORS IN THE COURT-HOUSE.



NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

WINTERINGHAM AND KIRKE WHITE.

WINTERINGHAM, on the south bank of the river Humber, possesses many claims on the attention of the antiquary, the historian, and the poet.

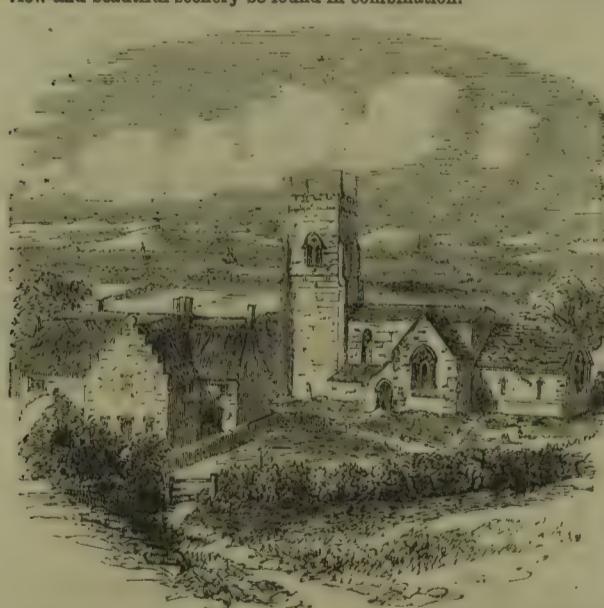
Here at one period lived the Marmions, and many traces of their castled home can yet be found. In the church is a mail-clad effigy, which is called "Marmion's Tomb," though every other record connected with it has long been lost or obliterated. Near the foundation of the ancient castle is a road leading to Winterton, which, in the vernacular of the neighbourhood, is called "Yarle's Gate," an evident corruption of Earl's Gate.

At Winteringham the great Roman road or Hermen-street terminates; and the interest of the neighbourhood was some years ago increased by the presence of Henry Kirke White, who studied under the Rev. Lorenzo Grainger, of the old rectory, before he went to Cambridge.

The young poet's favourite walk was along the bank of the Humber to Whitton and Alkborough; and as records of such he engraved H. K. W., 1805, on a tree on the sands at Whitton, and on another at a little distance the following couplet:

Don't you see the silvery wave?
Don't you hear the voice of God?

A little above Whitton is the confluence of the rivers Trent, Ouse, and Humber; and perhaps in no part of England can a more extensive view and beautiful scenery be found in combination.



WINTERINGHAM CHURCH AND RECTORY DURING THE TIME OF HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

From the hills of Whitton and Alkborough, which form a bold promontory, you have a view of the Minsters of York and Beverley, and numerous villages, mansions, and manufactories. On the left you have the Trent, "wandering at its own sweet will," and before you the Ouse threads its way into the west of Yorkshire, like a silver serpent, and becomes the more animated by being made the medium of the barge-borne products of the hives of industry.

At Alkborough there is a maze called "Julian's Bower," which is supposed to have been formed by the Romans; and at Winterton, about two miles from the Humber, there are the finest specimens of tessellated pavements that have been discovered. One of these, about thirty feet in diameter, supposed to have been the General's tent, has a figure of "Orpheus playing the harp;" and in compartments surrounding the same are the various animals of the chase, and in the four angles are cups and wine-vessels.

In the centre of another pavement is a figure of Ceres, holding in her right hand some ears of corn; and in a third is a bounding stag—all indications of mirth and plenty. The Romans made this their winter-quarters—hence the name Winter-town, now Winterton.

That Henry Kirke White enjoyed the scenery of the neighbourhood the following extract from his letter to his friend Maddock fully testifies. August, 1806, he says:—

Winteringham is indeed now a delightful place. The opening vista from our churchyard over the Humber, to the hills of Yorkshire, assumes a thousand new aspects. I sometimes watch it at evening, when the sun is just gilding the summits of the hills, and the lowlands are beginning to take a browner hue. The showers partially falling in the distance, while all is serene above me; the swelling sail rapidly falling down the river; and, not least of all, the villages, woods, and villas, on the opposite bank, sometimes render the scene quite enchanting to me.

Who can say how much such watchings imbued the poet's mind with "hues" of beauty? But now

the lyre is still;
The spirit, which its slumbers broke,
Hath pass'd away; and that weak hand that woke
Its forest melodies hath lost its skill.

The Illustration shows the Rectory-house and Church at Winteringham as they were when Henry Kirke White studied there. The Rectory has been rebuilt and the Church very much altered since that period.

A. A. able favour. Pagodas, puffs, and the Greek style, may now be said to be all equally fashionable.

It has been mentioned that basques are not likely to be so generally worn as they have heretofore been. But this is a mistake. Scarcely any dresses, except those intended exclusively for ball or evening costume, are made without basques. They are of various shapes, and they present great diversity in the materials employed for trimming. Some are long, others short; some are cut out in scallops, and are castellated at the edge. Fringe is a very favourite trimming, so also is passementerie, of which a new kind has been introduced for the purpose, consisting of round tufts of silk. The effect of this new trimming is at once novel and pretty. When lace is employed for trimming a basque it may either be set on nearly plain or very full. Narrow frills or ruches of silk form an appropriate trimming for the basque, when it corresponds with the style of trimming on the skirt of the dress.

The most fashionable riding-habits are of black or dark blue cloth. The newest style of corsage for riding-habits is without a basque, and the sleeves are made very wide at the ends. The collar and turned-up cuffs should be of fine lawn or cambric, finished with broad hems and a double row of hem-stitch. The hat should be of black felt, slightly turned up at each side, with a black plume waving towards the back of the head. A small cravache with an amber handle completes the costume.

Three of the objects represented in our Illustrations of Fashion—viz., the cloak (with patent spring hood), the fan parasol, and the bonnet—are engraved from drawings made by permission of Messrs. Jay and Smith, from articles in the elegant show-rooms of their Sponsalia, 246, Regent-street. The cloak which is shown on the first figure, on the right-hand side, is very elegant and becoming in form, but its peculiar recommendation is the perfect protection it affords to the head, without the risk of injuring, or even in the slightest degree disordering, the head-dress. Every lady must have experienced the discomfort, to say nothing of the danger, attendant on the sudden transition from a warm to a cold atmosphere, on leaving the Opera, an evening party, or any crowded assembly. The old-fashioned calashes, and the hoods of various kinds more recently introduced, have all been more or less liable to the objection of pressing upon, and consequently injuring, the flowers and other light ornaments composing the head-dress. The objection in question is completely obviated in the hood introduced by Messrs. Jay and Smith. It expands by means of elastic wires, thereby affording complete protection to the head, without close contact, or pressure on the coiffure. The touch of an invisible and ingeniously-contrived spring instantaneously

FASHIONS FOR MAY.

THE new Spring Fashions have determined beyond a doubt that green and lilac are to be the prevailing colours of the season for out-door costume. These two hues are introduced either separately, or in combination, in dresses, bonnets, ribbons; in short, in almost every article of costume. Several bonnets have been made of tulle *bouillonné*, with narrow bias folds of green or lilac silk. Between each *bouillonné* there is a double fold of silk, of graduated shades of colour. Green and lilac are the hues most effective for trimming bonnets of the style just mentioned. They should be ornamented at each side by a bouquet of flowers, or a feather of hues corresponding with those employed for the trimming. *Bouton d'or* and mallow colour are also very fashionable hues for trimming bonnets.

An extremely elegant bonnet has been made of terry velvet, of a very light shade of lilac, or, more properly, of peach-blossom. The front, which is rather open, is edged with a fall of white blonde turned back; and in the inside of the front there is a narrow row of black blonde, falling downward. On each side of the crown there is a small bouquet of white marabouts, tipped with lilac. The inside trimming consists of a ruche of white blonde, with bouquets of shaded violets and stripes of marabout.

Another much-admired bonnet is of white silk, edged round the front with shaded folds of green crape. At the lower part of the crown there is a broader fold of shaded green crape, edged at each side by a ruche of white tulle. At one side of the bonnet there is a cazar head, terminated by a plume of white feathers tipped with variegated hues. The under trimming consists of bouquets of hawthorn, and a very full ruche of white tulle. The strings are of broad white *sarcenet* ribbon, edged with green.

Velvet cloaks of small size are at present very generally worn, and they form an appropriate intermediary wrap between the warm winter cloak and the summer mantelet. Large cashmere shawls are, as usual, much in favour at the present season. Many novel and elegant designs in cashmere shawls have lately appeared. The small velvet cloaks are mostly of the circular form. Some are edged with one or two rows of black lace, and others with very broad silk fringe.

The principal change in the make of dresses is perceptible in the sleeves. The pagodas, which have been for some time past superseded by other forms, are now beginning to recover fashion-



RUSSIAN MORTAR, RECENTLY PLACED AT DOVER.—(SEE NEAT PAGE.)

raises the hood over the head when required; and with equal facility it is made to collapse, and to fall gracefully over the back of the cloak. The form of the cloak itself is shown in our Engraving. It partakes at once of the character of a cloak and a shawl. It may, of course, be made in any material, as fancy may dictate. That from which our Illustration is copied is made of white cashmere, and is trimmed with rich white silk fringe and tassels. The dress shown in the figure wearing the cloak is of pink silk, trimmed with *bouillones* of white tulle and pink ribbon. The dress of the next figure is of green velvet: the skirt without any trimming. The corsage has a deep basque, with pockets running obliquely and ornamented with gold sequins. The corsage and sleeves are likewise ornamented with sequins. The bonnet is of pink crape, trimmed with white blonde, and with a long white feather tipped with pink. Collar and under-sleeves of lace.

The third figure wears a dress of mallow-colour silk. The corsage and sleeves trimmed with fringe of the same hue, but a shade deeper in tone. The bonnet, one of the newest from Paris, is of *paille de riz*, of the Marie Stuart shape, very much pointed in front. It is trimmed with a superb wreath of vine-leaves and roses, and the strings are of very broad shaded green ribbon. The fan parasol is one of those newly introduced by Messrs. Jay and Smith, by whom the invention is patented. It is constructed on an exceedingly ingenious principle, whereby it may be instantaneously converted from a parasol to a fan, and vice versa. The convenience and utility of a parasol of this construction is too obvious to require comment. That from which our Illustration is copied is of pink silk, lined with white, and edged with white fringe. When converted into a fan, it presents precisely the form of one of those so much in use among the Chinese.

RUSSIAN MORTAR AT DOVER.

THIS trophy of the late war has lately been erected in the square in front of the Dover Sailors' Home. The mortar is unique in its construction; it was cast in 1803, is of 10-inch bore, and weighs nearly a ton. The Russian shells placed at each corner were taken at the same time. The mortar bears the following inscription upon a brass plate:

This Russian mortar, taken at Hango, in 1855, was presented to the Dover Sailors' Home by Captain W. H. Hall, R.N., C.B., and the officers and crew of her Majesty's ship *Blenheim*.

The mortar stands upon a massive foundation of granite.

The crew of forty-five wrecked ships have found a refuge and have had all their wants liberally supplied in the Dover Sailors' Home. The directors are assisted in this great work by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

THE last day of Newmarket witnessed the débüt of Kent, own brother to Suttingbourne, whose sheeted performances had created immense excitement among the tots for weeks before. Fazioletto's faulty sinew also stood well over the T. M. M. in the Port Stakes, and great was his noble owner's delight at seeing his beautiful son of Orlando and Canezou once more coming home a winner. An own sister to Ellington just won the Zetland Stakes at York; and Skirmisher, who was selected to do battle, instead of Fandango, for the Aske stable, and with the weight 5 lb. more in his favour, completely turned the Northampton tables on Lord Ribblesdale's horse, as his trainer always vowed he would do. This first of the Voltigeurs seems to have quite lost his ill temper; and the next day, at a mile and three-quarters, he made very short work indeed of Apathy and Wardersmarke, both of whom have run remarkably well this year, but the pace was wretchedly bad. These two performances, however, brought him to 14 to 1 for the Derby. Mary won the Flying Dutchman handicap under a very high weight, and seemed to drop from the clouds at last, Osborne coming in "hands down."

The first Spring has four matches on the *laps* at present, though it has anything but a strong bill of fare, except in its two leading events. Tasmania and Mastissima are in a 50-sov. stake on Monday; and on Tuesday all the interest centres on the Two Thousand, for which Loyola, Lord of the Hills, Drumour, Kent, Lambourne, Anton, Sydney, and Vedette will probably compose the field. Vedette, who is thought to be about half a stone better than Skirmisher, is now first favourite at 4 to 1; and it is difficult to see what will beat him; Lambourne we expect to see very close up; but we fancy that Kent and Anton would be better suited if the race ended at the Bushes, instead of the horses having to come down and up a hill after that, which has stopped so many since this stake was established in 1809. On Thursday Blink Bonny, Tasmania, and Ayacanora are the principal entries in the One Thousand, for which the great Melton mare must go, if she is to keep up her Derby supremacy. The £200 Two-Year-Old Plate is a new feature on this day; and Happy Land (5lb. ex.) is the only winner, as yet, among the lot. Kent seems likely to have the Newmarket Stakes to himself, unless Goldfinch has passed a better winter than his stable companion Schiedam. The betting on the Chester Cup is of the mildest description, and Ireland has all the steepleclassing to itself next week. Knockingem (Gormansthon), on Monday and Tuesday; Limerick Hunt, on Tuesday; Westmeath, on Tuesday and Wednesday; and Tuam, on Wednesday, are its trysts; while Rothbury, on Wednesday, is the only one of which the sportive Saxons can boast. Of stud news there is little to record; but Crucifix, who has had no foal since Chalice, in 1852, is, we believe, again barren this year. Prickwillow, the celebrated trotting sire, met his death very oddly lately. While he was being led down a hill near Raisthorpe he trod on a sharp stake, which darted upward and inflicted a wound in his barrel, from which he died.

The last great run of the season was one with Mr. Garth's hounds—sixteen miles without a check in something under an hour and a half; and, except perhaps in the New Forest, and one or two woodland districts, the foxhound is silent at last. Sales are the order of the day. Forty couples of foxhounds are in the market in one lot, as well as twelve couples and a half from the Duke of Cleveland's kennel. The thirty Cottesmore horses come up to Tattersall's on May 7th, and on Thursday next the horses which have carried the North Warwickshire and Mr. Taiby's men will be sold at Bretherton's of Birmingham. Mr. Borron's celebrated kennel of greyhound winners will also change hands at the hammer, in London, next month.

The Boston Yacht Club have their opening trip on Monday, and the London Unity Rowing Club have four-oared races from Putney to Barnes the same afternoon.

YORK SPRING MEETING.—TUESDAY.

Spring St. Leger.—Ignoramus walked over.
Zetland Stakes.—Sister to Ellington, 1. Soothsayer, 2.
Great Northern Handicap.—Skirmisher, 1. Pantomime, 2.
Knavesmire Plate.—Terrific, 1. Admiral Lyons, 2.
Selling Stakes.—Walhalla, 1. Blueskin, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

Consolation Scramble.—Little Cob, 1. Polly, 2.
Londesborough Cup.—Polimodie, 1. Kestrel, 2.
Tyro Stakes.—Manilla colt, 1. Queen of the Isles, 2.
Second York Biennial Stakes.—Skirmisher, 1. Wardsmarks, 2.
Flying Dutchman's Handicap.—Mary, 1. Ma Mo colt, 2.

MALTON RACES.—THURSDAY.

Two Year Old Stakes.—Soothsayer, 1. Darkie, 2.
Malton Handicap.—Liverpool, 1. Martic, 2.
Birdsall Handicap.—Attorney-General, 1. Laird-o-Dale, 2.
Northcliffe Plate.—Peto, 1. Magnolia, 2.
Hunt Cup.—Hero, 1. Mischief, 2.

TATTERSALL'S.—THURSDAY.

TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.—7 to 2 agt Vedette (1), 6 to 1 agt Kent (1), 5 to 1 agt Loyola (1), 8 to 1 agt Anton (1), 8 to 1 agt Sydney (off), 25 to 1 agt Drumour (1), 100 to 31 agt Tu-bit (1), 500 to 12 agt Beewax colt (1).

DEERBY.—8 to 1 agt Blink Bonny (1 off), 14 to 1 agt Skirmisher (1 off), 100 to 30 agt Compton (off).

PRINTERS' PENSION SOCIETY.—We understand the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex have consented to support the Duke of Wellington, who will preside at the next anniversary dinner of the Printers' Pension Society, which will take place on the 22nd of May.

RUSSIA ON CHINA.—The Russian press continues to dwell upon the result of the English elections, but with less dissatisfaction than before, for the writers begin to perceive the inutility of such arrogance. The *Court Journal* has even begun to show some signs of inclination to side with the policy of the British Government, and especially so with respect to the Chinese question. "If the Chinese comprehended Russian," it says, in an article on this subject, "they would recommend the Government of Pekin to make concessions to England, especially as her demands are only based upon commercial relations, and are neither difficult nor humiliating to be complied with. On the contrary, advantageous to China, which must open to all Europe and America her trade, and not close her ports against them." *Letter from Hamburg.*

THE ALLEGED POISONING AT HONG-KONG.—Several portions of the loaves of bread which gave rise to such strong suspicions of poisoning at Hong-Kong have been forwarded to Baron Liebig, at Munich, for analysis. From the circumstance that such a distant authority in chemistry has been sought out, one so perfectly aloof from all local and political sympathies and antipathies, one may conclude that it is the friends of Alum who are desirous of corroborating the verdict of the English jury at the hands of the German analyst.

A HASTENING order has been received at Sheerness for the fitting of the paddle-wheel steam-frigate *Terrible*, now under repairs in No. 1 dry dock, Sheerness. She is destined to assist the *Agamemnon* in laying down the telegraphic wires between America and Newfoundland. The *Terrible* is 884-horse power; she has four cylinders of 74 inches diameter, with 8-foot stroke; and she previously worked up to 2000-horse power. It is in consequence of her being fitted with the most powerful engines in our Navy that she has been selected for this undertaking. A number of additional artisans have been set on to hasten her fitting.

SOMERSET-HOUSE.—THE CHIMNEYS.—The long-desired removal of the disfiguring chimney-pots of Somerset-house, has really commenced. Upwards of 120 of the most obnoxious shapes upon the river front have been changed for simple architectural feature in accordance with the solid character of the edifice. The work has been executed under the direction of Mr. John Billing, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, who has made the subject of smoky chimneys a special study. The uncertainty which has hitherto beset this question has not arisen in this instance, as the alteration is said to be entirely successful, and it is applicable to all classes of buildings.

On the 2nd inst. the ferry-boat between Cape Vincent and Kingston (Canada) was partially capsized by a rush of passengers to the bow, and out of fifteen or twenty only two persons escaped. The rest were drowned.

Count Chrepotitch, the Russian Minister, left London last Monday night via Dover, for Paris.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

THE demand for money this week has fallen off to some extent, and the rates of discount have ruled somewhat easier. This feature in the market has been productive of more firmness in the value of National Stocks, although the advance in the quotations has been trifling. On public account steady purchases of Stock have been made; nevertheless, the operations on the part of speculators for a rise have been unimportant owing, we presume, to the Bank of France having raised the premium on gold from 8s. to 12s. per £100. This advance is calculated to draw gold from this country, and to produce greater stringency in the Money Market, especially as we are still importing large quantities of silver from the Continent to meet the Eastern demand. In the Stock Exchange money has been plentiful, and loans from day to day have been obtained at from 5 to 6 per cent. The fall in the quotations in Lombard-street, compared with last week, is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The new Russian railway scheme has been introduced into the Stock Exchange. Messrs. Baring, the agents, state that they require £2,000,000 instead of £3,000,000, as originally proposed, and that the first payment will be £6 per share. The scheme is regarded with more than usual distaste, and very few transactions have taken place, although the price has been nominally called 3 to 1 premium. Some curious facts have been brought to light by the means adopted to render this application to our moneyed classes successful; but this is not the only instance in which sham agents and buyers of scrip have been brought into the field; consequently, any lengthened notice of their doings is quite superfluous. No doubt the whole amount will be subscribed for; but it is clear that the shares will never be in high favour amongst the jobbers.

The decision of the Bank of France in reference to doubling the capital of that institution has given rise to an uneasy feeling in Paris. The operators on the Bourse contend that the purchase of £1,650,000 of Rentes will be tantamount to a loan of £4,000,000 to the Government, who, at any time, may become large sellers of stock to the prejudice of prices. Should, however, the Bank be allowed to issue notes to the full extent of the loan—which we believe it will—the mercantile classes will derive considerable relief from the possibility of money becoming cheaper. In Paris money has been in demand, but in the departments the inquiry for it has been less active, owing to the dulness in trade. At Hamburg the rate of interest is 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Purchases of silver continue to be made on the Continent to meet the Eastern demand; and we learn that about £600,000 will be sent to India by the next packet. The imports of gold this week have been trifling, but those of silver have amounted to nearly £90,000. At New York the exchanges have taken a very favourable turn; hence we may expect steady arrivals from that quarter during the coming month. The quantity of gold now on passage from Australia is valued at £658,000. Sales of bar silver have been effected at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ounce.

There was very little business done in the Consol Market on Monday. Prices, however, were firm. The Three per Cents Reduced marked 91s 9d to 91s 11d; Three per Cent Consols, for Money, 92s to 93; Ditto, for Account, 93s; New Three per Cent, 91s 11d and 92; New Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 91s 11d; Long Annuities, 1860, 213 and 212; Long Stock was 213 and 212; Long Annuities, 1860, 213 and 212; Long Annuities, 1860, 213 and 212; Ditto, 1865, 18; India Bonds, 5s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 3s. to 10s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, 98s 11d. Steady purchases of Stock were effected on Tuesday, and the quotations were a shade higher. Bank Stock was 213 and 212; the Three per Cents Reduced were 91s 11d; Consols, for Transfer, 92s 11d; Ditto, for Account, 93s 11d; New Three per Cents, 91s 11d; New Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 77; Long Annuities, 1860, 17 15-16; India Bonds, 3s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 18s. to 6s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, 98s 11d; India Stock, 22s. On Wednesday prices were firm:—Bank Stock, 214 and 213. The Three per Cents Reduced were done at 91s 11d; Consols, for Money, 93s 11d; Ditto, for Account, 93s 11d; New Three per Cents, 91s 11d to 92; Long Annuities, 1860, 23 7-16; Ditto, 1865, 21 5-16; Ditto, 1865, 18; India Bonds, 3s. to 6s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 18s. to 6s. dis.; ditto, Bonds, 9s 11d.

The English funds were firm on Thursday, owing to the Directors of the Bank of England having made no change in the rate of discount. The Three per Cent Consols were 93s 11d; for the Account, 93s 11d. The New Threes were done at 92s 11d; and the Reduced, 91s 11d to 92s.

The Thirty Years' Annuities were firm, at 17 15-16. March Exchequer Bills were 3s. dis. to par; June, 4s. to 1s. discount. These quotations show an important improvement on late rates. Exchequer Bonds were 98s 11d.

The dealings in most Foreign Securities have been very moderate throughout the week; nevertheless, prices have continued firm. Austrian Five per Cents have realised 91s; Brazilian Five per Cents, New, 99s; Brazilian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 99 to 100s; Chilean Six per Cents, 100s ex div.; Ecuador New Consolidated, 14s; Portuguese Three per Cents, 45; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 77; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 96s; Russian Five per Cents, 105; Sardinian Five per Cents, 91; Spanish Three per Cents, 41s; Spanish New Deferred, 25s; Spanish Committee's Certificate of Coupon, not funded, 6s per cent; Turkish Six per Cents, 94s ex div.; Turkish Four per Cents, 100s; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 65s 11d; Dutch Four per Cents, 96s ex div.; Danish Three per Cents, 85s; French Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 91s 11d; French Three per Cents, 69s 25c.; and Peruvian Dollar Bonds, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 56.

All Joint-Stock Bank Shares have been steady, as follows:—Australasia, 90 ex div.; British North American, 70s; Commercial of London, 24; London Chartered of Australia, 17s; Ditto, New, 17s; London and County, 30; London and Westminster, 46s; Oriental, 41; Ottoman, 14s; Union of Australia, 58s; and Western Bank of London, 39.

In Miscellaneous Securities very few transactions have taken place:—Australian Agricultural have marked 21; Canada Company's Bonds, 15s; Canada Government Six per Cents, 112; Crystal Palace, 28; Electric Telegraph, 94; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 18; London General Omnibus, 4; North British Australasian, 2; North of Europe Steam, 11; Oriental Gas, New, 1 prem.; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 67; Ditto, New, 142; Royal Mail Steam, 62 ex all; Scottish Australian Investment, 18; and Van Diemen's Land, 11s. London Dock Shares have been done at 102s; St. Katharine, 92s; Berlin Waterworks, 4s; East London, 106s; Grand Junction, 73; Ditto, New, 31; Lambeth, 4s; Kent, 80; Hungerford-bridge, 8.

The dealings in Railway Shares have not been to say extensive; yet the market for these securities has ruled firm, and prices have had an upward tendency. The following are the official closing quotations on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Bristol and Exeter, 89; Caledonian, 69s; Eastern Counties, 11s; Eastern Union, B Stock, 36s; East Lancashire, 98; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 55s; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 34s; Great Northern, 103s; Great Western, 67; Lancashire and Yorkshire (Ireland), 103s; Great Western, 44; North-Eastern (Berwick), 87; Ditto, 100s; North Staffordshire, 12s; Vale of Neath, 20s; West End of London and Blackwall, 6s; London and Brighton, 10s; London and Northwestern, 105s; Ditto, Eightights, 2s; London and South-Western, 101s; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 29s; Midland, 82s; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 53s; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 16s; Norfolk, 59s; North British, 44; North-Eastern (Berwick), 87; Ditto, 100s; North Staffordshire, 12s; Vale of Neath, 20s; West End of London and Crystal Palace, B, 6s.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—East Lincolnshire, 13s; London, Tilbury, and Southend, 102s; Royston, Hitchin, and Shepreth, 13s; Wilts and Somerset, 87.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties Extension, No. 1, 2 prem.; Ditto New Five per Cent. Stock, 12; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 73s; Great Northern Five per Cent, 108; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 101s; Great Western—Birmingham Stock, 72; London and Brighton New Six per Cent, 13s; Midland Consolidated Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 97s; Ditto, Leicester and Hitchin, 87s; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 110.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.—Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 9s; Buffalo and Lake Huron, 13s ex New; Ceylon, B Shares, 2s; East Indian, 103s; Ditto, C Shares, 16s; Grand Trunk of Canada, 6s; Ditto, Six per Cent Debentures, 89s; Great Indian Peninsula, 21s; Ditto, New, 27s; Great Western of Canada, 25 ex div.; Madras Extension, 10; Punjab, 3s prem.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7s; Dutch Rhenish, 12s; Great Luxembourg, 7s; Namur and Liège Preference, 20s ex int.; Northern of France, 39s; Paris and Lyons, 62; Royal Danish, 18s; Royal Swedish, 14s; Samre and Meuse, 9s; West Flanders, 4s.

In Mining Shares very little has been passing. On Thursday Great Wheal Alfred were done at 5s; Wheal Edward, 4s; St. John del Rey, 19s; Cobre Copper, 61s; and United Mexican, 3s.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE.—April 20.—We had about an average time-of-year supply of English wheat on offer here-to-day in somewhat improved condition. Fine d^r v spars moved off steadily, at an advance in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter; but in other kinds is much inactive at late rates. There was a better feeling in the market for foreign wheat, at 1s. per quarter more money. The wheat was firm at an English market value of 1s. per quarter. Marketly, grain prices were well supported. We had a good inquiry for our old corn, and advances

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POETRY BY CHARLES MACKAY.

AIR, "OH DEAR, WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?"

Slow, and with expression.

The Symphonies and Accompaniment by Sir H. R. BISHOP.

Sheet music for the first system of the song. The top staff is in G major, 6/8 time, with dynamic marks *p* and *rif*. The bottom staff is in D major, 8/8 time, also with *p* and *rif*.

Stay! stay! vi-sion of youth and grace! Stay! stay! ra-diant and hap-py face!

Sheet music for the second system of the song. The top staff shows a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff shows harmonic bass notes.

Stay! stay! light of our dwell-ing-place! Sad in thine ab-sence we'll be. Thy

Sheet music for the third system of the song. The top staff shows a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff shows harmonic bass notes.

smile was like sun-shine it glitter'd so cheer-ly; Thy voice was like mu-sic, it rang out so clear-ly; We

knew not till now that we loved you so dear-ly: Our home will be dark with - out

thee.

a tempo *rif* *rif* *rif* *cres.* *p*

I.

STAY ! stay ! vision of youth and grace !
Stay ! stay ! radiant and happy face !
Stay ! stay ! light of our dwelling-place !
Sad in thine absence we'll be.
Thy smile was like sunshine, it glitter'd so cheerly ;
Thy voice was like music, it rang out so clearly ;
We knew not till now that we loved you so dearly ;
Our home will be dark without thee.

II.

Stay ! stay ! loving and kindly heart !
Stay ! stay ! joy is where'er thou art !
Stay ! stay ! wherefore so soon depart,
Leaving us here in our pain ?
Yet if, like the Spring, to new lands thou art going,
To scatter thy smiles like sweet primroses growing,
We'll hope that, with beauty and grace overflowing,
Like Spring, thou wilt come back again.

NOTE ON THE MELODY BY SIR H. R. BISHOP.

"OH DEAR WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?"—I have not been able to ascertain the precise date of this popular tune. It was printed about seventy years ago, arranged as a duet, from a copy of which the present version has been taken.





CONFERENCE OF KAW INDIANS (KANSAS) WITH THE UNITED STATES' COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

Mr. Murray, in his work published on "Cuba, the United States, and Canada," three years since, thus states the advantages of Bytown, now called Ottawa, as the permanent seat of government:

No place was ever better calculated for the capital of a great country. Bordering upon Upper and Lower Canada, only twelve hours from Montreal, easily capable of defence, with a trade increasing in value as rapidly

as the source thereof is inexhaustible, at the confluence of two rivers whose banks are alike rich in timber and arable land; requiring but nineteen miles of lockage to unite the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa, and the Gatineau, with the boundless inland lakes of America, possessing the magnificent Rideau Canal, which affords a ready transport down to Kingston on Lake Ontario, rich with scenery unsurpassed in beauty and grandeur, and enjoying a climate as healthy as any the world can produce,

Nature seems to have marked out Bytown for a Canadian metropolis. In short, were I a prophet, instead of a traveller, I should boldly predict that such it must be some day if Canada remained united and independent.

The accompanying view, from the Barrack-hill, looking down the river is from a sketch by Mr. Henderson, the well-known painter.



OTTAWA, THE PROPOSED NEW SEAT OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

MR. FREDERICK ROBSON, OF THE
OLYMPIC THEATRE.

We this week present our readers with a character portrait of Mr. Robson, the serio-comic actor, whose success at the Olympic Theatre has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of histrionic London since 1853, when Mr. Farren was fortunate enough to secure the services of this most genial of English actors. Genial he is, but "with a difference," that is, a peculiarity which makes the geniality a special aptitude. We have called him a "serio-comic actor;" and it is the admixture of the grotesque and tragic which this term implies that Mr. Robson's speciality so singularly illustrates. It is not sufficiently known—if at all—that this peculiarity, or rather its manifestation, is due entirely to Mr. Robson's appearance in London. In the provinces the struggling actor had not evinced this curious talent, not only because there was no opportunity for it, but that the thing altogether was an original creation to be spontaneously produced out of the accidents of his London engagement. From 1844 onward Mr. Robson acted for a long period at the Grecian Saloon, where he managed to impress many histrionic peers with his remarkable power; but beyond *Wormwood*, in "The Lottery Ticket," there was no cardinal manifestation. In 1850 we find him in Dublin, at the Queen's, astonishing the Irish with *Jem Baggs*, in "The Wandering Minstrel." But out of this nothing original came, and it was by reason of "the original" only that Mr. Robson was destined to achieve his ultimate triumph. Mr. Farren, fortunately for the profession, perceived that his only hope of making the Olympic successful lay in the perpetual production of novelty, and accordingly he produced a series of adaptations and new pieces at that theatre, as he had previously done at the Strand. Much credit is due to Mr. Farren for the boldness with which he daringly experimented in a direction at which less intelligent managers are found to start and grow pale, each "like a guilty thing upon a fearful summons." The only hope of exhibiting genius, however, depends upon such boldness and such daring, grounded upon such intelligence in managers of theatres; and because all these are so rare in such persons it is that so few examples of what is really good and great in the poetic and histrionic department of productivity are brought before the notice of the public. There is a mine of wealth in the genius of the country not yet explored, on account of the incompetent manner in which our theatres are conducted, and on that account alone. Mr. Farren's liberality presented his audience with two burlesques on "Macbeth" and "Shylock," the heroes of which were confided to Mr. Robson. These original characters brought out the original actor. With no capacity for vulgar imitative burlesque, or with none that he cared to show, Mr. Robson studied the parts in question without any reference to preceding actors, and by merely exaggerating the tragic power, of which he found the elements in his own deeper nature, revealed to wandering criticism a new poetic creation—a new kind of dramatic development, in which the passionate and the humorous were so curiously commingled that men were almost inclined to believe that, in the dramatist of these punning and fustian caricatures, Aristophanes himself had arisen from the Greek Hades, and walked awhile in Wych-street. It is to the credit of Mr. Wigan that, in undertaking the management of the theatre after Mr. Farren, he was not unmindful of his predecessor's excellence, and, in a great degree, was willing to walk in his steps. Mr. Wigan has also depended on novelty, and made his theatre a house for authors as well as actors. And such has been his success that nearly every piece he has produced has had an enormous run. Night after night "Plot and Passion," by Mr. Tom Taylor, though somewhat heavy and drily intellectual in plan and execution, exhibited Mr. Robson in the character of *Desmaret*, and showed how much he could



MR. ROBSON AS "DADDY HARDACRE," AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.

do with the serious alone. We had then the "Yellow Dwarf," to present him in a picturesque point of view; and, finally, in the "Medea," no doubt was left on the mind of every judicious playgoer that Mr. Robson was more the tragic than the burlesque histrion. We have so lately reviewed his *Daddy Hardacre* that we will no longer detain the reader with any further remarks on this topic. Every competent judge is now convinced that, Mr. Robson is a tragic actor of the most intense power. Not a few are anxious to behold him in a real tragic part; and sure we are that he would surpass all competitors in such a rôle. We speak advisedly in saying this. We may add to the present inadequate notice of the merits of a man of real and singular genius, that Mr. Robson's reputation is not confined to London: in Dublin it is great; and in Edinburgh, during Passion Week of the present year, his success was perfectly astonishing. The characters in which he excited such extraordinary enthusiasm were *Jasper Touchwood* in "Hush-money," and the *Medea*, in which *Histori* is not caricatured so much as she is emulated. Singular position for an histrionic artist, that in burlesquing tragic emotion he should rise, notwithstanding all the drawbacks of extravaganza, to the dignity of the tragedian, and thus by contrast make his victory over stubborn materials "come fiery off," and distance competition altogether. In conclusion we may remark that Mr. Robson was born at Margate in 1821, and is now only in his thirty-sixth year. Thus early in life he has attained an extraordinary fame; and we may, therefore, expect for him both a long and splendid future.

"A FAMILY GROUP."

PAINTED BY H. B. WILLIS.

FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

We engrave, agreeably to the promise we gave in our notice of the above Exhibition, Mr. Willis's admirable picture of Goats. The scene of the background seems to be somewhere on the south coast, judging from the precipitous character of the cliffs, the down covered with sheep, and the bramble blossoming on the left. The group consists, as our readers will see, of a he-goat or, as he is familiarly called, a "billy," a she-goat or "nanny," and her kid. In Britain the goat produces generally two young at a time; and here, besides the kid kneeling to its mother's side, there seems to be another—the scapegrace of the family—who has been wandering, but is now looking down inquiringly from the extreme verge of the eminence on the right as if to ascertain if it is meal-time. *Paterfamilias* is lying down with an expression of great content, his sagacious eye seeming to give the weight of parental sanction to the proceedings of his gentler partner. And she retracts her keen eye with its dilated oblong pupil, and pricks her ears with much maternal solicitude. The coats of the animals are truthfully painted, with all the shaggy coarseness of our domestic breeds. The hair, however, of the Angora, the Thibet, but, above all, of the Cashmir goats, is of the finest silky texture, and is woven into those celebrated India shawls, of such exquisite beauty and great value. The hair of the goat thus furnishes fabrics as choice as anything from Merino sheep or Alpaca llama. The draught our little kid is quaffing is not only very nutritious to man, but even medicinal.

Besides the utility of the goat, it is interesting, as being a favourite subject of pastoral poetry and fable. This (with other genera of the order Ruminantia) is also associated with man in his earliest records; accompanying the Patriarchs in their wanderings; forming one of the subjects of the most acceptable sacrifice, and being



"A FAMILY GROUP."—PAINTED BY H. B. WILLIS.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

made a type and emblem of Him who bare the sins of a guilty world. The "Scapegoat" has, however, been a subject pictorially well treated by Mr. Hunt, in his remarkable work exhibited last year at the Royal Academy. These, then, and many other considerations justify our artist in his choice of subject—and the excellence of his art would lend interest to a much less suggestive theme.

LITERATURE.

A PERSONAL NARRATIVE OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE. By ALEX. ARMSTRONG, M.D., R.N. Hurst and Blackett.

This interesting volume, published with the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is dedicated to Prince Albert, by the gracious permission of his Royal Highness. It describes the voyage of her Majesty's ship *Investigator* to ascertain the fate of Sir John Franklin and of his companions, and records the grand triumph of Arctic navigation in the discovery of the North-West Passage, which had been vainly sought after during the long period of three centuries. A clearly-executed chart is prefixed to the volume, giving a complete and distinct view of the track of the *Investigator*, of her consort ship the *Enterprise*; and of the route followed by Mr. Rae on receiving intelligence of Franklin's party from the Esquimaux. The command of this expedition was intrusted to Captain Richard Collinson, C.B., who hoisted his pendant in the *Enterprise*; and the command of the *Investigator* was conferred on Captain Robert J. Le Mesurier M'Clure, to whose ship Dr. Armstrong was appointed as surgeon and naturalist. Both vessels were ordered to proceed to Behring's Strait, and enter the Polar Sea from the westward. They sailed from Plymouth on the 19th January, 1850; and on the 6th October, 1854, the survivors landed at Ramsgate, after an absence of four years and ten months.

The interest of the voyage, in reference to its special mission, of course, does not commence till the ship reached the ice; but we cannot pass over unnoticed the visit to Honolulu, were it only to mention that an old woman still lives in a remote part of the island, a native of Owhyhee, who had a clear recollection of the death of Captain Cook, and could narrate the circumstances with great accuracy. It is to be regretted that Dr. Armstrong was unable to have an interview with her. Honolulu appears to have almost entirely lost the distinctive features of its ancient character. The government is vested in the King and his Ministers; and, with the exception of Mr. Wylie, a Scotchman, who is Minister for Foreign Affairs, all the high functionaries of the Crown are missionaries, chosen from the Boston Society, United States, and the country appears to be under American influence. The clerical discipline exercised is described as severe and injudicious, defeating itself by its own rigour, and "tends largely to promote and foster a great amount of secret sin and infamy, which are the worst of evils." Dr. Armstrong observes—

I may here adduce an instance of some of the absurd puritanical laws which exist. The use of wine and spirits is totally prohibited, under pain of being denied the rites of baptism, and other privileges pertaining to the Christian religion; and I was informed that a respectable American merchant was anxiously looking out for the arrival of a British man-of-war, bearing a chaplain, that he might have his child, then many months old, baptised—a rite the clergyman of his own Church had refused, because he allowed wine to be drunk in his house.

On the 2nd August, 1850, the *Investigator* entered the ice, the main pack being visible. The ship was then in latitude 71 deg. 1 min. N., longitude 166 deg. 11 min. W.; and the lofty, impenetrable barrier extended across the path of the explorers in a line from N.W. to S.E. Herds of walruses were now seen basking in the sunshine, on detached masses of the frozen water. The meat of these animals, called by old sailors "marine beef," is excellent. At Point Drew—a low, flat promontory—the first party of Esquimaux reached the ship, which they thought was a floating island. They came to barter or to steal; and bold and clever thieves they seem to be. Their "baidars" (or boats) are "constructed in the form of a yawl, with skins from which the hair has been removed, over a framework of wood: when this cannot be procured, whalebone is substituted. They are in length about twenty-four feet, with a breadth varying from three to four, with seats across, as in our own boats. They manage them with much skill and dexterity; and the paddles, which are always in the hands of the women, propel them with great celerity through the water."

Various tribes of Esquimaux visited the ship; and the account given of them by Dr. Armstrong is extremely interesting—much more copious and discriminating than that given by the lamented Dr. Kane, whose valuable work we recently noticed. Indeed, the writer of the present volume had better and more frequent opportunities of observing their habits, characters, and physical qualities; and he speaks of them in terms of sympathy which do him honour. Of the women he gives the following description:—

They had an animated and more intelligent expression than we had seen others of the sex possess, added to a great display of cheerfulness, conversing in a most lively manner among themselves. Being desirous of ascertaining their stature, they readily submitted to my measuring them, which appeared to afford them much amusement. They were tattooed on the chin, having a vertical line about half an inch broad in the centre, with a parallel but narrower one on either side of it, a little apart. Some had two vertical lines protruding from either angle of the mouth, which is a mark of their high position in the tribe. Their hands, notwithstanding the great amount of manual labour to which they are subjected, were beautifully small and well formed—a description equally applicable to their feet; and their teeth, white and regular, were displayed to considerable advantage in the hearty laugh in which they frequently indulged.

At Point Drew the Esquimaux were a timid race; at Cape Bathurst they were fierce and warlike, though no hostilities ensued. Of these Dr. Armstrong gives the following account:—

The tribe appeared to be composed of young, active, muscular men; and the women were decidedly better looking, with more vivacity and cheerfulness, than any we had met with. I fancied that I could trace the outline of Indian features in several of both sexes, the dress of the women particularly partook in some degree of that worn by the Indian tribes, and differed from the costume of their race along the coast. In the men there was an absence of the labrets; but several had the septum of the nose pierced and transfixed with a piece of ivory, some three or four inches long, a blue bead ornamenting either end. Sundry emblems of their success in the chase were worn suspended from their deerskin coat; chiefly the head and neck of the great northern diver, skins of the stoat and ermine, and other small animals—all intended to convey an idea of their individual prowess. Tattooing was common among them; and the captors of whales were each honoured with one line extending outwards from the inner angle of the eye across the cheek; for each one taken the captor became entitled to an additional mark.

The interpreter who accompanied the expedition remarked a strong similarity of language between the Esquimaux of Cape Bathurst and those of the coast of Labrador; and Dr. Armstrong infers from their appearance that they are of Mongolian race. "They are met with in the north-eastern extremity of Asia, the Aleutian Islands, along the entire coast of America, and as far eastward as Greenland, to the south, as Hudson's Bay, and to the north, as far as has yet been explored." We must give one more extract relating to these people, as Dr. Armstrong has painted them in the colours of an anatomist and physiologist:—

They are generally well proportioned, with full, capacious chests and well-shaped limbs. From several measurements which I made, the average height was five feet four and a half inches; but those apparently of Indian origin were taller, from five feet seven to eight inches, and in one or two instances even more. Their expression is by no means unintelligent. The complexion is swarthy, chiefly, I think, from exposure, and the accumulation of dirt; the head is of good size, rather flat superiorly, but very fully developed posteriorly, evidencing a preponderance of the animal passions; the forehead was, for the most part, low and receding; in a few it was somewhat vertical, but narrow. The full, expanded nostril, broad face, and high cheekbones, were well marked; they possess also keen, restless, small black eyes; the external commissure drooped somewhat. There is generally an absence of beard and whiskers, or they are represented by a few hairs; in the old the growth is more luxuriant. The cavity of the mouth is one of the most capacious I have seen, with a regularly-shaped, powerfully-formed lower jaw, and large, well-formed teeth—the incisors presenting a flattened crown, as if worn down by attrition from frequent mastication of hard substances. The hands and feet are generally small and well formed.

A few months since, when noticing the pretensions of the Hudson's Bay Company to retain their monopoly of trade, we felt it our duty to point out the unjust treatment of the natives, and it is gratifying to

us that our charges against them have been confirmed by the authority of Dr. Armstrong. The Esquimaux told him that they were in the habit of going westward to meet a tribe from the Mackenzie River with whom they trade, the latter trading with the Indians, who are in direct communication with the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company. They declared that the Company bartered "fire-water," that is, ardent spirits, for skins and peltries, which the Company have so frequently denied. Our readers may judge what unfair bargains they make with these poor creatures from the fact that they give the native hunters, for three skins of the silver fox, cooking utensils estimated at only eight shillings and sixpence; while the skin of each silver fox is worth, at the annual sales of the Company, as high as twenty-five or thirty guineas. Well may Dr. Armstrong observe on such extortive traffic, the fruit of monopoly, "how much the condition of these poor creatures might be improved under the influence of free trade."

A residence in the Polar ice is, of course, very monotonous, and cannot afford much variety of incident. Danger always presents itself, and is exciting, but it is little modified in its nature, as it chiefly arises from the motion of the floes and bergs, which menace the ship with destruction; and the perilous encounters with bears, wolves, walruses, and whales. As the young ice forms it appears in minute flocculi; as they become larger they coalesce, and as the cold increases they become solidified in masses by pressure. The winter's ice is estimated at seven feet in thickness. As a remarkable proof of instinctive feeling in the Polar bear it is stated that Bruin, bleeding from the effects of a rifle ball, was seen to tear off his own fur with his teeth and apply it, and also snow, to the orifice of the wound. In these dreary regions life is soon extinct under the severity of the temperature. The carpenter's mate was hunting hares, and in the eagerness of the chase separated himself from his comrades. From being warm and perspiring he became suddenly cold, "was seized with headache and giddiness, and fell down insensible." After remaining in a state of insensibility for at least two or three hours, consciousness returned, and he managed to crawl to the tent, in front of which he fell down. When discovered "he could not speak, his body rested on the hands and knees, the head thrown back, the eyes fixed and immovable, the nose, mouth, and ears filled with snow, which was fast accumulating about him, the jaws and limbs rigid." He was restored, but he told Dr. Armstrong that he never afterwards felt himself equal to the same amount of exertion. Snow blindness and frozen extremities, requiring amputation, frequently occurred.

The grand discovery of the North-West Passage is thus announced:—

We could clearly trace the termination of the western land, or that of Banks', to a headland or cape of considerable elevation, while that on the eastern side trended away to the north-east, with a clear undoubted field of packed ice intervening, continuous with the Strait of Prince of Wales, in which the ship then was. Everything, then, was fully confirmatory of the opinions previously formed, and no doubt could remain as to the existence of a passage. From the summit of that hill I felt convinced we were looking on the ice-packed Strait of Barrow, that the highway to England from ocean to ocean lay before us, and that we had incontrovertibly established the existence of a North-West Passage.

This grand discovery was thus recorded in the ship's log:—

October 31st.—The Captain returned at 8.30 a.m., and at 11.30 a.m. the remainder of the party—having, upon the 26th inst., ascertained that the waters are now in communication with those of Barrow Strait, the north-eastern limit being in latitude 73 deg. 31 min. N., longitude 114 deg. 39 min. W., thus establishing the existence of a North-West Passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.

It is almost needless to say that the crew of the *Investigator* did not find any traces of Franklin and his unfortunate companions. They were themselves fortunate in not sharing a similar fate, from which they were rescued by the heroic Lieutenant Pim, of the *Resolute*, which ship, as well as the *Investigator*, was abandoned. We have not space to describe the perils encountered, and the hardships endured, after the discovery of the North-West Passage till the day of their deliverance; they are graphically related, and will not be read with unmoved eyes. The Passage, of course, is only true in a geographical sense, as it never can be utilised for the purposes of navigation; and it is wisely settled that our dauntless seamen will never again be exposed to the horrors of Polar ice. In this volume the lover of natural history will find much valuable information, nor will the geologist be unrewarded. It is a national work which does honour to one of the most brilliant achievements in the long catalogue of time-honoured deeds which immortalise the glorious annals of the British Navy.

TESTIMONIAL.—The Rev. Henry Blackett, on his leaving the Curacy of Kettering, Northamptonshire, has been presented with a silver teapot and a purse of thirty-five sovereigns from the congregation; also a copy of the "Messiah" from the choir.

THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER.—The following circular has been issued to the members of the Liberal party:—"Whitehall, April 15, 1857. My dear Sir,—As the first business upon the assembling of Parliament will be the election of a Speaker, I take the liberty of informing you that Mr. J. Evelyn Denison will be proposed as a candidate, and I trust that the whole of the Liberal party will attend and concur in his election. May I venture to press upon you the importance of being present on the 30th of this month, on which day the election will take place? I should feel greatly obliged if you would have the kindness to inform me whether I may rely on your presence and support. Very truly yours, W. G. HAYTER."

ANOTHER COMPLAINT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—According to an official article in the *Zeit*, the Prussian Government has caused its Diplomatic Representative in Washington to remonstrate with the United States' Government, on account of the many acts of violence committed on immigrants in American ports, by forcibly pressing, or with artifice kidnapping them on board American vessels, and thus securing their compulsory services on board American merchantmen. These steps at Washington have been mainly founded on the report published by the Liverpool Society for the Protection of Foreigners, which shows, among other things, that during the past year and the first month of this year sixty-nine cases had come to the knowledge of the society, of foreigners who had been compelled against their will to serve on board of American merchantmen, and who, on arriving in Liverpool, were so perfectly ruined in health and fortune as to become entirely dependent upon charity and hospital aid. Of thirty-seven others who had been talked over into taking American service voluntarily, a further number of thirteen had been obliged to have recourse to surgical aid on making Liverpool, in consequence of maltreatment; and out of a total number of 106 cases that had come to the knowledge of the society only two persons were found that did not complain bitterly of the ill usage received on board American vessels. The grievous malpractices in New York, also, to which immigrants are exposed from the artifices of "runners" who hoax the ignorant stranger into delusive purchases and expensive routes to their destination, have been repeatedly and indubitably exposed by the Government here, through the agency of an Emigration Board for the information of intending emigrants; and the sale of through tickets to American ports has been strictly forbidden in the Prussian dominions, an example which has been followed by the Hamburg and Bremen authorities. On the other hand, this Government has at various times pointed out, even by its official organs, the superior advantages awaiting the emigrant in Australia and Canada, where, whatever the emigrant's individual success in life may be, he enjoys the advantage of British laws and the regulated freedom obtainable under a monarchical Government.—*Letter from Berlin.*

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE.—Letters from Smyrna of the 5th inst., state that Admiral Lyons, together with his squadron, had been received there with much ceremony by the Turkish authorities, the French naval division, and the English residents. Admiral Bouet-Willaumez, at a fete which he gave to the British Admiral on board the *Pomone*, gave a toast, "To the Union of the French and English Flags." Admiral Lyons replied in a long speech, in which he developed the advantages of the Anglo-French alliance.

FALL OF AN AEROLITE IN FRANCE.—An acrolite was seen falling on the afternoon of the 5th inst. in the banlieue of Andolsheim, near Colmar. Dr. Dussourt was walking on the left bank of the Ill, when his attention was suddenly attracted by a whistling noise like that of a shot, or of a flock of birds passing rapidly through the air. At the same moment he saw passing at about 100 yards above him a black body, spherical at one end and pointed at the other, the whole measuring, as well as he could judge, from thirty to forty centimetres (eleven to fifteen inches) in length, and about the thickness of a man's arm. From the Doctor's indications, men have been busied for some time in endeavouring to discover this aerolite, but have not succeeded. The department of the Haut-Rhin already possesses a celebrated acrolite, which fell on the 7th of November, 1492, at Ensisheim, close to where the Emperor Maximilian I. was standing. That Prince had it conveyed into the choir of the church in grand procession, and it remained there until removed to the National Museum of Colmar. At the moment of the fall it weighed 260 lb., but it has been since much diminished in consequence of fragments having been detached from it. There is one in the Museum of Natural History in Paris which weighs 20 lb.—*Galignani's Messenger.*

WAR AND WEALTH.

DURING the terrible collapse which overtook the country at the close of the long war against Napoleon in 1815, it was a favourite argument with many amateur, and some official, financiers that the general distress was attributable chiefly to the economy of Government. While the war lasted the public expenditure had reached 100, 120, or 150 millions a year. With the return of peace that outlay was reduced by nearly or quite one half. Hence, they contended, arose the ruin of commerce, the paralysis of industry, the fall of prices, the want of employment, and starvation of the industrial classes. By the way it is worth recording that the "Peace Budget," framed by the Ministry in 1816, comprised an outlay of *sixty-five millions*—a sum considered ridiculously small, and which the Government were very strongly urged to enhance. The formula by which that step was enforced consisted of two very simple terms. When the Government spent money they gave employment to labour. At that moment there were large masses of labour unemployed. Therefore, the Government were recommended to spend more money, even if they borrowed it at a heavy discount.

The nation has grown a little, and only a little, wiser since 1816. In the war just concluded, whose duration was so brief, and whose issue was never doubtful, every symptom presented in former periods of hostility assumed a mitigated form. Yet, if happily reduced in magnitude, every member of the series recurred in its order, even including the fallacy that industry can prosper by a wasteful expenditure of public money. Deluded by the temporary stimulus given to certain branches of manufacture by the feverish activity and fictitious prosperity infused over special departments of industry and trade, many political writers and honourable members have run away with the idea that the vast outlay occasioned by the war has, while it lasted, proved beneficial to the nation; that it has given employment to thousands who would otherwise have been unemployed, and large profits to hundreds who might, under other circumstances, have found no market for their skill, their capital, and their *savoir faire*.

Whenever these hypotheses can be tested by the results of an experience applied, not to special classes, or narrow localities, but to the nation at large, the falsehoods which they suggest become lamentably obvious. Among these tests there is none more significant than that afforded by the comparative returns of pauperism. A Parliamentary paper, issued in pursuance of a motion made by Mr. Muntz during the course of last Session, exhibits "the amount expended for the relief of the poor, together with the cost per head on the population, in the fifty principal towns of England and Wales, during the years 1854 and 1855." In the former year the national expenditure was £60,000,000; in the latter £84,500,000. According to the theory of the political economists we have mentioned, the general prosperity, as measured by the activity of commerce and manufacture, and consequent increase in the employment and wages of industry, ought to have been considerably greater in 1855 than during the preceding year. But what are the results, as gathered from the return before us, where real consequences are mirrored with unflattering distinctness? In almost every case we find an increase—and in many the augmentation is serious—in the sums required for the relief of pauperism. This enhancement prevails, as a rule throughout; extending even to towns, where the money laid out upon warlike paraphernalia by the Government might have been expected to, and did, flow most freely. To Liverpool, for example, which stands highest on the list in the scale of population, and where no small proportion of the public revenue was expended in freights and other supplies, the total amount spent upon poor relief increased, during the two years above specified, from £84,000 to £101,000. The average amount of poor-rate paid per head throughout the city was 6s. 6d. in 1854, and 7s. 10d. in 1855—showing an increase of more than 20 per cent. Matters were worse still in Manchester. The increase in that city has been from £51,000 to £72,000 in gross outlay, and from 5s. 6d. to 7s. 9d.—or 41 per cent—per head of population. The ascending scale then passes to Whitechapel, where the cost of relief expanded from £20,000 to £30,000—or 50 per cent; the rate levied per head of population being 5s. 4d. and 7s. 9d. in the two years respectively. The list of increase is, however, headed by Bradford, in Yorkshire, where the outlay in the respective years increased from £13,800 to £23,700; and the rate per head from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 6d.—or more than 78 per cent. Among the few instances of diminished poor-rate the best place is occupied by Merthyr Tydfil—that centre of the Welsh iron manufacture—where the charge per head has dropped 7s. on the year. In Marylebone there has been a diminution to the amount of 2s. 6d.; in Sunderland of 3s. 6d.; in Dudley of 1d.; in Shoreditch of 3d.; and in Dewsbury and Halifax of exactly 4d. each.

Regarded in their actual amounts of charge per head, the two lists present an equally disparaging contrast against the latest year. In 1854 the minimum rate anywhere levied for poor relief was 1s. 4d.; in 1855 it was 1s. 6d.; Aston being the favoured locality in both cases. The maximum was in like manner increased, and in still larger proportion—being 8s. 7d. in 1854, and 9s. 6d. in 1855. Here again the lot fell upon the same city, Bristol. In the return for the last year the five highest rates after Bristol are for Portsea, 8s. 10d.; Norwich, 8s. 7d.; Brighton, 8s. 6d.; Newington, 8s. 6d.; and Liverpool, 7s. 10d. per head of population. The five lowest again, above the fortunate Aston, are Ashton-under-Lyne, where the charge per head is 1s. 11d.; Dewsbury, 2s. 5d.; Halifax, 2s. 6d.; Blackburn, 2s. 6d.; and Chorlton, 2s. 6d. The poor-rates in the metropolitan districts and suburbs were levied during 1855 in Newington parish, at 8s. 6d. per head; in Whitechapel, at 7s. 9d.; in St. George's, Hanover-square, at 7s. 4d.; in St. Margaret's and St. John's, Westminster, at 7s. 1d.; in Marylebone, 6s. 11d.; in Lambeth, 6s. 8d.; in Greenwich, 6s. 5d.; in Stepney, 5s. 11d.; in St. Pancras, 5s. 4d.; in Shoreditch, 5s. 1d.; in Clerkenwell, 4s. 1d.; in Bethnal-green, 4s. 0d.; and in Islington, 3s. 9d. The aggregate number of inhabitants in the fifty "principal unions and parishes" comprised in the return before us is 4,955,000, or not far short of one third the total population in England and Wales. The average rate levied per head for relief of the poor throughout the entire list was 4s. 3d. in 1854, and had increased to 4s. 11d. in 1855. The whole sum paid in poor-rates by this section of the community in the last-mentioned year exceeded £1,230,000.

CURRENCY REFORM.—The Prussian Government has finally resolved to prohibit the circulation of bank-notes of any other State, without exception; and the bill has been presented to both Houses of the Legislature for their sanction. This measure, like every other one of importance, finds its supporters and opponents, and has called forth a deal of polemical fire. The diplomatic representatives of some other States of Germany are negotiating in the hope of exceptions being made in their favour; but, as the Ministers feel at present, no single exception will be tolerated. It is more particularly the small States, with but few inhabitants, who have been inundating the country with bank-notes out of all proportion to their wants, and which has at length brought down on them the prohibition. The following list of the banks of the lesser States, and their emitted paper money, will be found correct: Anhalt-Dessau, with 115,000 inhabitants and 4,000,000 of dollars; Hesse-Darmstadt, 855,000 inhabitants and 20,000,000 of florins; Saxe-Weimar, 264,000 inhabitants and 5,000,000 dollars; Gera, 115,000 inhabitants and 2,500,000,000 dollars; Sonderhausen, 61,000 inhabitants and 3,000,000 dollars; Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, 150,000 inhabitants and 4,000,000 dollars; Brunswick, 272,000 inhabitants and 5,000,000 dollars; Saxe-Meiningen, 165,000 inhabitants and 8,000,000 dollars. In addition to these large sums of bank-notes, considerable amount of paper money has been omitted by the Governments of these above-mentioned States

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Emperor of the French entered on his fiftieth year on Monday last, having been born on the 20th of April, 1808.

The Manchester Art-Treasures Exhibition Committee intend to devote the entire proceeds of their proposed concerts in the Free-trade Hall, on the 5th of May (at which his Royal Highness Prince Albert will be present), to the use of the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The audience given by the King of Holland, on the 15th inst., at Amsterdam, was very numerously attended. During the time the Queen visited different charitable institutions. A grand dinner of 70 covers was given at the palace in the afternoon.

The Elector of Hesse arrived at Frankfort on the 14th inst., with the Princess of Hanau. His Royal Highness on his way from Cassel went to Brunswick, in order to consult Dr. Grotti, the celebrated oculist, for a complaint of his eyes, which, without causing any serious uneasiness, required attention.

Sunday last being the first Sunday in Easter Term, her Majesty's Judges and the Corporation of the City of London attended in state the afternoon service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Imperial yacht the *Reine Hortense* is now undergoing repairs at Cherbourg, it being the intention of the Emperor and Empress of the French to make excursions in her in the course of the summer. The Imperial yacht (says the *Patrice*) is to be placed at the disposal of the Grand Duke Constantine all the time of his visit to the western ports.

The Marchioness of Bute has appropriated a large piece of ground at Canton, in the immediate neighbourhood of Cardiff, for the purpose of forming a park for the recreation of the inhabitants of that town.

A despatch from Palermo says the ex-King of Bavaria arrived there on the 7th inst., under the name of Count d'Augsburg.

The Irish papers publish a "petition" from the tenants of Lord Waterford in Londonderry, asking to be allowed to vote as they think proper at the election of that county. Lord Waterford's agent replied that he "would wish them to vote for Mr. Clark and Sir H. Bruce."

Count de Lechberg and Baron de Leonrod, Aides-de-Camp to the King of Bavaria, are to proceed to Paris at the beginning of May to join the suite of his Majesty, who will reach Paris about the middle of May.

We understand a matrimonial alliance is arranged between Mr. Beecher, second son of the late Sir William Wixson Beecher, and the Lady Emily Hale, second daughter of the late Earl of Listowel.

The Duke of Saxe-Altenbourg and the Duke of Brunswick arrived at Hanover on the 14th inst., on a visit to the Royal family.

Mr. F. Peel, the rejected candidate at Bury, will, it is thought (says the *Bristol Advertiser*), find a seat in the Lansdowne borough of Calne, where Sir W. Williams of Kars will make way for him.

The numerous official relations which Feruk-Khan, the Persian Ambassador, has formed since his arrival in Europe will detain him in Paris until September next, when he hopes to return to Persia.

Don Luis Gonzales Bravo, the Spanish Minister at this Court, left London on Saturday evening for Paris, *en route* to Madrid. His Excellency will be present at the opening of the Spanish Cortes, and will probably return to London at the end of next month.

James Merry, Esq., M.P. for the Falkirk District of Burghs was on Thursday admitted an honorary burgess of the Royal burgh of Hamilton.

The Storting of Norway has unanimously resolved to increase from 24,000 to 84,000 rix dollars the annual revenue of the Prince Royal as Viceroy of Norway.

The Dumfries Courier announces the forthcoming publication of a "Dumfries Album," which will contain contributions from Mr. Thomas Carlyle, Professor Blackie, Mr. James Hannay, Professor Nichol of Glasgow, Rev. George Gilfillan, Mr. Thomas Aird, Mrs. Johnstone, &c. &c.

The Dowager Empress of Russia will not go to Rome, as originally proposed, but remain at Nice.

The office of Judge of the Civil Court of Western Australia is vacant, in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Barry.

M. de Tégorborski, member of the Council of the Empire, and of celebrity in economical science, died at St. Petersburg on the 11th.

At the general quarterly sitting of the Geographical Society of Paris, M. Jomard read a report on the labours of Dr. Livingstone in Central Africa, and announced that the Committee of Prizes had this year unanimously awarded the annual prize medal of the society to that distinguished traveller.

General Dannerberg, of the Russian army, who distinguished himself in the affair of Inkerman, is at present in Paris.

The friends and supporters of Mr. M. Chambers, formerly M.P. for Greenwich, have set on foot a subscription for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial. The object to be purchased is an elegant work of art, which is to contain the autograph signatures of all these electors who voted for his re-election as representative of the borough.

The Commissioners appointed by the French Emperor to report on the expediency of removing the convicts from Guiana to New Caledonia have recommended the small Island of Pines for the seat of the new permanent settlement.

The friends of Sir William Bowyer Smith propose to testify their respect for him and the principles he supports by inviting him to a public dinner at Cheimsford on the 8th of May.

Orders have been given that all the scaffolding in the Cour Napoleon, at the Louvre, is to be removed by the 1st of May next. The sculpture is already nearly completed. The pavilion at the entrance of the Musées, opposite the Pavillon Colbert, has had the name of "Daru" inscribed over the principal door.

The *Guide to National Economy*, a new Russian paper, which attacks the Customs system violently, advocates Free-trade, at the same time that it points out the faults of the administration and denounces the infamous venality of the employés.

Upwards of £500 has been subscribed by members of the Society of Friends in Bristol towards the funds for the relief of the starving Finlanders.

The price of butcher's meat increases every week in Paris. The best ox-beef which was to be had a few years since at sixteen sous the pound is now twenty-one sous, and the butchers affirm that prices will be much higher before long.

Preparations have been commenced at the Hôtel de Ville for the fete which is to be offered to the Grand Duke Constantine on his arrival in Paris. The principal attraction of the entertainment will be a dramatic representation similar to that offered to the Plenipotentiaries of the Peace Congress.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has decided to take the initiatory steps to erect a splendid building for their own use, which would cost at least 300,000 dollars. It would include a magnificent commercial library, and yearly reports would be published embracing voluminous statistics of the commerce of the country.

Orders have been given to a well-known Spanish firm in London to purchase timber for the building of three frigates and a schooner. These vessels will be propelled by screws, and the engines are to be constructed by first-rate engineers.

The Agricultural Exhibition, which will open at Vienna on the 5th May, promises to be very brilliant; it will last to the 27th. The number of domestic animals inscribed to the 13th inst. amounted to 1230. More than 200 manufacturers, comprising the most eminent of England, France, and Belgium, will take part in the exhibition of agricultural instruments.

According to the last reports there were in London 143,000 vagrants admitted in one year into the casual wards of the workhouses.

A large model in plaster of the statue of Notre Dame, which is to be erected on the rock of Corneille, at Puy (Haute Loire), is, according to the *Union*, to be shortly exhibited in the Champ de Mars. The Puy state that the subscriptions for this statue now amount to 210,139 francs.

The Southampton arrived in the Mersey last Saturday night from New York, with seventy horses and the *materiel* and *artistes* of the Circus of Messrs. Howe and Cushing.

The visit of the Emperor and Empress of Austria to Hungary, which was to have taken place on the 5th May, is postponed to the second fortnight in that month. The guards, who had received orders to go to Pesth on the 28th of this month are not to leave until the 15th May.

The French Government has presented a proposition to the Corps Legislatif, proposing to purchase the Palais de l'Industrie.

The case of the Tipperary Bank swindle is every day becoming more hopeless. A strong opinion is entertained in many quarters that, if matters go on as they are proceeding at present, the first dividend of 2s. will be a final one.

The *Lincolnshire Chronicle* states that several farmers in the Lincoln district are reducing the wages of their labourers from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week.



CHINESE CARICATURE OF AN ENGLISH SAILOR.

THE ACCOMPANYING is a Chinese caricature of an English sailor issued during the last war with China, in the province of Che-keang. It describes the British Tar in much the same style as the mythological and other monsters are spoken of in an old Chinese work, called the "Shanhai King;" or, Book of Hill and Stream." The descriptive text proceeds:—"This creature appears in the Tsing-teh-heen district of Choo-chow-foo, of the capital of Che-keang. Several troops of men surrounding it, it then changed into blood and water. Soldiers should shoot it with fire-arms, for bows and arrows are unable to injure it. When it appears, the people and troops should be informed that whoever is able to destroy or ward it off will be most amply rewarded. If the monster find itself surrounded by soldiers, it turns and falls into the water. When it meets any one it forthwith eats him. It is truly a wonderful monster." As a specimen of caricature, and as showing the terms and exaggerated notions which prevailed on the east coast of China, it is a curious illustration of the immense self-immolation of the Chinese which prevailed at the capture of Ching-keang-foo. The smoke from the mouth is probably meant for fumes of tobacco.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.—The third report of the Postmaster-General on the Post-office, presented to Parliament by command of her Majesty, has just been printed. It commences with noticing the extension of inland service during the last year, in which period 368 post-offices have been added, making the whole present number in the United Kingdom 10,866. The establishment of pillar-boxes is noticed as a successful experiment, and it is intended in a short time to put up a large additional number in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, and in various parts of the country. The measures adopted for accelerating the delivery of letters in London—including the sorting of country letters before they reach town and the division into postal districts—have been so far successful that the morning delivery of letters commences 33 minutes earlier and is completed 45 minutes earlier than before. The conveyance of mails, exclusive of steam-vessels, and not counting the walks of letter-carriers, within the United Kingdom extends to over a distance of 61,000 miles per day, being about 2600 miles more than in the end of 1855. The number of letters delivered in England last year amounted to 388 millions, being an increase of about 5½ per cent on the preceding year. The letters delivered in Ireland in the same period were 42,000,000, and in Scotland 48,000,000; the former being an increase of only 1·25 per cent, and the latter 4·4 per cent on the year preceding. The proportion of letters is in England 20 to each person, in Ireland 7, and in Scotland 16. The reduction of the postage on letters to India from 1s. to 1d. made in the beginning of the year, has already caused an increase from 800,000 to nearly 1,100,000. The correspondence with France has also increased, owing to the reduction of postage about 1,000,000, or nearly one-third of the whole former number. The interruption of the packet service to the United States consequent on the exigencies of the late war, caused a considerable diminution in the correspondence, and, though last year there was an increase of 125,000 letters, the number is still considerably less than it was before the interruption. The number of newspapers which passed through the Post-office last year is estimated at 71,000,000. Of letters returned, owing to imperfect directions, there were about 2,400,000, and of newspapers 550,000. The money transmitted through the agency of money-order offices amounted last year to £11,895,562 for the United Kingdom, and the profit from the transmission, after deducting all expenses, was £22,674. The gross revenue of the Post-office last year is stated to have been £2,867,954, being an increase of 5½ per cent. As compared with the first year of penny postage (1840), the gross revenue was increased by 111 per cent, and, even as compared with the last year of high rates of postage, there has been an increase of 20 per cent. The report notices the continued practice of sending money and other valuables in unregistered letters as offering great temptation to theft, and as not unfrequently raising groundless suspicion. Numerous instances are mentioned of blame being attached to the Post-office, and to the letter-carriers, when the faults arose from negligence of the parties sending the letters, or from the roguery of the persons to whom they were intrusted to be put into the Post-office. The recent recommendation to adopt district initials to letters has been responded to very satisfactorily. Already about 55,000 letters daily, or one-third of those posted in the London districts, are so addressed.

THE MONKS AND THE PRESS.—The Capucine Monks of Grasse, in fair Provence, have afforded another absurd proof of the spreading intolerance of a fraction of the clerical party in France. These individuals, after having denounced from the pulpits as criminal the modern literature of the country (including the works of Thiers and Lamartine), called upon the parishioners to deliver up to them all the books unconnected with religious subjects that they might possess. On Easter Thursday, at nine in the evening, a procession, headed by three stupid friars, proceeded to one of the market places of the town, where a stake had been prepared; all the books, including the history of the revolution by Thiers, the poetry of Lamartine, and Balzac's works, with a heap of productions by Dumas, Sue, and G. Sand, were then thrown with much ceremony into the flames.

FEROU KHAN AND LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.—The *Journal de Teheran* received by the last Levant mail contains a note from Ferou Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, from which it appears that, during his stay at Constantinople, the Persian diplomatist evinced the most conciliatory spirit, and the most pacific disposition, in all his negotiations with the British Ambassador. But, being at last out of all sympathy with Lord Stratford's obstinacy, he told him that, in consequence of his systematic refusal to give any answer to the successive propositions made, he should withdraw the concessions which he had offered to make for the sake of peace, and should proceed at once to France. This document proves clearly that Lord Palmerston wilfully distorted facts when he told the House of Commons that Lord de Redcliffe was in no way responsible for the rupture of the negotiations.—*Assemblée Nationale*.

此物出在浙江處州府青田縣數十成羣人禦之化為血
水官兵持砲擊之刀箭不能傷現有示諭軍民人等有
能剝除者從重獎賞此怪近因官兵遂急旋即落水逢
人便食真奇怪哉

THE MOUCHARDS OF PARIS.—*A propos* to the very considerable alarm felt by the *entourage* of the Tuilleries latterly touching the Emperor's personal safety, I think it is possible your readers may be amused by an account of what I am myself a personal witness to. Three days ago, whilst walking in the Rue Rivoli with a friend, my attention was called by the latter to a gentleman who was walking leisurely some paces before us. "Do you know who that is?" was the question put to me; and, to my negative reply, "If you have any curiosity about him," added my friend, "we will join him, and make him talk upon a subject very familiar to his understanding. He is no other than M., one of the prefects of police of the Republic of 1848, who held the position for the longest period of time, and best discharged that very difficult office." Of course I profited by my friend's proposal. We joined M.; and the mutual presentation effected, we journeyed on, all three together, up the Champs Elysées, and on to the outer side of the Arc de Triomphe; after which we descended the Champs Elysées by the side opposite to that by which we had entered them. Our subject of conversation soon became that by which I commenced my letter—the anxiety, namely, of the Government touching the Emperor's safety. "Yes," remarked our new companion, "I do not need to be apprised of that; I need only look around me as I walk;" and this phrase our interlocutor explained thus:—"If it is of any interest to you, I will point out, as we go along, the individuals, under every imaginable disguise, who, some few years since, were the soldiers of my army. They are everywhere, and by twenties, thirties, hundreds; they are lounging, or walking quick, apparently hurried by business; old and young, rich, poor, sick or healthy, listening to you and me as we converse, prying, spying, watching all around;" and, in truth, it was beyond measure to see the men M. pointed out to us, and with whom he every now and then exchanged an imperceptible sign of recognition. Out of those that struck me most I will notice a few. One was a lame beggar-man, who went halting along with a most pitiful mix, and who, our informant told us, was remarkably clever at his trade. "Observe," he said, "how he always contrives to stop and seem to rest himself whenever two and three men meet upon the foot pavement and begin to talk: he is listening to what they say." Another was also very ingenious. This was an elderly-looking invalid, closely wrapped up, attended by a liveried servant, and who had ensconced himself in one of the now very comfortable chairs that garnish the Grand Avenue. He had placed himself in the very middle of a group of sitters of both sexes, whom the first rays of this premature sunshine had seduced to what are usually the haunts of a month later. Others, again (and a great many), were dressed as workmen—some in blouses, some in working jackets; several were attired in "shabby-genteel" costume, looking like poor professors or *employés*; whilst some were as elegantly dressed and appeared as gentlemanlike as the generality of dancers in Paris ball-rooms. "The place where you may see the most of these gentry," said M., "is if you will come as far as the round point of the Champs Elysées—the fountain. It is their gathering place; they know that, in the course of the day, they can always be sure to find each other there." Sure enough, when we reached the fountain, we found a small circle of these police heroes; and, as we approached, our informant designated them to us. "You see the seedy-looking man with a bundle of papers under his arm, the journeyman painter lolling against the edge of the basin, the dandy examining the play of the water through his eyeglass, and that tall raw ragged youth trying to make a bit of a boat sail along. Well, I know every man of them. They are all *mouchards!*" (police spies). As we passed quite close to these individuals, we noticed that our companion was evidently known to them; but, as he himself remarked, "they did not venture to bow" to him. Further on, however, close to the triumphal arch, we met an elderly man, dressed extremely well, and carrying "respectability" on his every feature. "To this one, if you like," said M., "I will speak;" and accordingly he accosted him thus: "Well, so and so, then you carry on your trade still? I should have thought it was pretty nearly time to retire from business." "Ah, Monsieur le Préfet!" was the answer of the man, who could not make up his mind to treat as an ordinary mortal him who had once been his immediate superior; "I really cannot consent to give up my young men (*mes petits jeunes gens*) and the fair ladies; they interest me; not that they are worth much—but they interest me—*que vous leur touchez!* I have the habit of them!" This needs explanation. The man in question is especially charged to watch over a certain class of ladies in their relationships with young men of family; his observations all went to prove that never, in any time had the youth of France been so immoral, so degraded; but he always ended by saying he could not give them up yet, because he had "the habit of them."—*Paris Correspondent* of the *Manchester Guardian*.

AN AMERICAN DUEL.—The *Baltimore Republican* gives an account of an extraordinary and fatal duel which occurred at Winston (Maryland).—The parties were fastened down by their trousers to a two-inch oak plank, and fought with bowie-knives. "They fought," says the *Republican*, "until Drain was mortally wounded. Young Pendleton was cut nearly to pieces, and now lies in a critical position. Part of Pendleton's knife is still in Drain's head. There is no hope of his recovery. The doctors think they will both die. Drain was twenty-two, and Pendleton nineteen."

RUSSIAN INTRIGUES AGAINST TURKEY.—A Vienna correspondent, who is usually well informed, writes to the *Frankfort Post Zeitung* as follows:—"Our papers seem not to understand the merits of the Montenegro question, but what is going on is well known to me. Russia failed to annihilate Turkey she will now endeavour to dismember her. It is the task of Greece to separate Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia from the Ottoman Empire. The projected Rouman State (Moldavia and Wallachia) will endeavour to unite with Bulgaria, and Montenegro is the point from which the seeds of discontent were to have been cast into those districts in Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Albania that are inhabited by Greek Christians. The offer of Prince Daniel to recognise the suzerainty of the Porte, if the means of living in peace and quiet are given to his subjects, interferes with the plans of the Russians, and hence the violent attacks which are made on him and his brother Mirko." There is reason to believe that the Porte would not be disinclined to give to Prince Daniel, as its vassal, sixty square English miles of grazing and arable land, and to furnish him with the means of maintaining his princely dignity without having recourse for pecuniary assistance to a foreign power.

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